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College and School News

At **Meharry Medical College** the Tennessee State Medical Association is sponsoring a post-graduate course in pediatrics by Dr. Willis H. Thompson. Twenty-three physicians are enrolled. Several public health nurses and internes from Madison Sanitorium also attend. Dr. Thompson, who has devoted ten years to the study of pediatrics, received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. J. A. Bone, associate professor of pharmacology, was recently made a member of Sigma Xi, honorary scientific fraternity. He is now studying at the University of Illinois.

Frederick Hall, professor of Music at **Dillard University,** has arranged thirty of the better known spirituals and folk songs which have just been published in three volumes. Many of these songs were sung by the Dillard quartet which toured South America two years ago and recently appeared on Broadway. A well-known composer, Prof. Hall is a B.A., Morehouse College; a B.M., Chicago Musical College, and a M.A. in music from Columbia University. He has also studied at the Pittsburgh Musical Institute, the Royal College of Music of the University of London School of Oriental Studies, and at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dillard's "Arts Quarterly" currently features the life of the great colored minister, Lemuel Haynes, who served white congregations in New England a century and a half ago.

In the January issue of "The Prairie View Standard", published by **Prairie View State College,** are fourteen fine photographs of the homes of Texas Negro district extension agents. The "Standard" regularly features articles of importance on the economic status of Negroes, particularly in agriculture.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was guest speaker at the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary exercises at **Bethune Cookman College,** February 16, 17 and 18. Mrs. Roosevelt spoke on the last day.

More than 50 adult leaders in the WPA recreational program throughout the state of Tennessee met for a three-day institute at **Knoxville College,**

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Jan. 24-26. The leaders were instructed in handicrafts and play supervision.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Laura Spelman Rockefeller was commemorated at **Spelman College** on December 24, by the Spelman and Morehouse alumni.

West Virginia State College mourns the sudden passing of its associate professor of biology, Dr. James Loram Jones, who died at his Pittsburgh home in January. He was a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.

The College's division of Cooperative Extension directed its first Extension School at Glen Ferris, Fayette County, the week of January 22–26. Courses on "Parent Education" and "The Modern Family and Its Everyday Life" were given.

Two members of the **Atlanta University** system won prizes at the Tri-County Art Exhibit, held at the High Museum of Art for artists of Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb counties. Hale Woodruff won first prize in water colors, and his pupil, Robert Neal, a student in the Laboratory School, received second award with a painting.

M. Dantes Bellegarde, eminent Haitian diplomat, will be guest professor of English for the second semester of the current academic year. A former Haitian Minister to the U.S.A. and to France, M. Bellegarde is director of the Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs at Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The long-awaited first issue of the quarterly "Phylon" edited by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois came off the press late in January.

Spelman College announces the coming of Miss Henrietta Herod to the faculty of its English department. She was formerly professor of English at Louisville Municipal College. She is a native of Indianapolis, Ind., with a B.A. from Butler University and a M.A. from Radcliffe College. She has done advanced work at Western Reserve University and the University of Chicago.

Three new trustees have been appointed at **Hampton Institute.** They are Thomas Dudley Cabot of Boston, Mass.; Virginius Dabney of Richmond, Va., and P. B. Young of Norfolk, Va.

J. Henry Scattergood of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, also has announced the formation of a Hampton Institute Alumni Advisory Council to discuss matters of policy and of mutual interest with the Board at least once a year.

The annual Founder's Day address was delivered by Dr. Channing H.

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Consumer Education and Economics was the theme of the Fourteenth Annual Home Making Institute at **Bennett College** held from Feb. 18 to 25. This institute has pointed the way to better living and family relations in Greensboro, and has been a beacon to womanhood in the vicinity. Noted speakers were secured for the occasion.

A survey of 67 '39 graduates of **Morehouse College** recently disclosed that only one was unemployed.

The annual celebration in honor of Morehouse's founders was held on February 18-19. The address was delivered by Rev. Samuel Augustus Owen, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., a 1911 graduate.

The forum meetings which began on November 1, and were held under the joint direction of the department of sociology and the Educational Division of the Division of Negro Affairs of the N.Y.A., have been completed. The forum dealt primarily with Southern problems and drew many noted speakers.

Forty-two students achieved honor roll distinction in first quarter examinations at **Wiley College.** The College will be host to the Negro State Teachers Association meeting at Marshall the third Thursday in November, 1940.

The Accrediting Commission of the American Association of Theological Schools, at its annual session in New York, in December, voted to place the School of Religion of **Howard University** on the accredited list. The School recently moved into its new quarters in Carnegie Hall.

The first flight in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Howard was made on January 19, 1939. The first students to make the flights were Yancey Williams, Elmer Jones, Jr., and George Miner.

Dawson Number Played on Radio "School of the Air"

An original number for orchestra by William L. Dawson, composer, orchestra leader, and director of music at Tuskegee institute, was played on the Columbia Broadcasting System "American School of the Air" program February 20.

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

Katherine Dunham is a native Chicagoan who is emerging as the leading colored dance artist in the country. She studied folk dancing in all parts of the West Indies on a Rosenwald fellowship in 1936 and 1937. In 1938 she was awarded a Rockefeller fellowship and continued her studies of the dance.

Miss Dunham came to New York in September, 1939, and joined Labor Stage, the theatre workshop of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. She has become the dance director for Labor Stage, whose best-known production to the general public is the musical revue "Pins and Needles." Miss Dunham still has her own dance group in Chicago consisting of thirteen dancers who give ballet and folk dances at every concert. Miss Dunham herself has staged dances for the Chicago productions of "Run Little Chillun" and "The Emperor Jones" and for the Chicago Civic Opera Company.

Her debut here as a dancer for the New York public took place February 18 at the Windsor theatre in 48th street. Her interpretations received especially favorable notices in the daily press, particularly the *Herald-Tribune* and the New York *Times*. A second recital at the Windsor theatre is scheduled for Sunday evening, March 10.

NEXT MONTH

J. A. Rogers contributes the third and last of the series of articles entitled "The Suppression of Negro H'story."

There will be also the promised but delayed article "New Rebels in the Old South" by G. B. LaBarre, Jr., of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee.

In early issues there will be articles on the National Housing Program and on the work of the Farm Security Administration among Negro farmers. Also a story, "Winter Was When She Died," by Herbert Eli Dickson.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Marita Bonner Occomy has written several stories for THE CRISIS and other publications. She lives in Chicago.

•

Dr. Robert C. Weaver is a member of the administrative staff of the United States Housing Authority in Washington, D. C.

•

George Padmore is well-known to readers of THE CRISIS for his interpretative articles on the colored colonies of the European nations.

•

Howard Kester has been connected with movements for the improvement of the lot of sharecroppers from the very beginning and was a pioneer worker with the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Soc Sci Periodicals

Patch Quilt

By Marita Bonner

SARA unrolled a piece of damp clothes from the basket beneath her ironing board and shook it out.

"Another one of them ruffled dresses for Mrs. Brown's Sally. I'clare I can't iron it today." Sara spoke aloud to herself.

She looked at the clock. Twelve o'clock. She should have known that by the sunshine though it was hard to tell time by the sun in March.

Jim ought to be coming any moment now. Jim ought to be coming home from his new job.

"First time in near three years that Jim'll bring home a pay envelope on Saturday. Shore glad the government made them put some of the colored relief men on the new road job along with the white!" Sara had a habit of talking aloud whenever she was alone. She made a half-hearted swoop with her old-fashioned sad-iron over one ruffle before her on the board.

A whistle blew somewhere.

Sara held her iron up from the board and listened. Then walking swiftly to the rusty iron stove that glowed red hot beneath a burden of six irons, she released the one she held in her hand.

"Shame to waste this fire and these clothes all damped just right to iron but I gotta git ready to make market."

She took the board down from its position between two chairs, tossed the dress back into the basket and went into the bedroom.

"I'm going to get me some of the things I been wanting to eat these three years." Sara planned happily as she put on a clean cotton house dress and her only pair of silk stockings.

"Jim's bringing twelve dollars and I got four or five up in the closet. Guess we'll have chicken and yeller yams and greens and ice-cream—if the freezer is still any good—and two kinds of cake for Sunday dinner! Got to celebrate!"

She broke off talking to herself to listen again. Jim ought to be coming into the house right now. Only took fifteen minutes to get home if he took the short cut.

"Guess he gone down town to git his hair cut! Git all prettied up," Sara decided finally.

She went to the cupboard in the kitchen, took down an old tea-pot and drew out four dirty crumpled one dollar bills.

"We can take the ten dollars rent out of Jim's money. I'm going!" she decided recklessly.

Uncle Eph sat on a rock nearby cleaning a red lantern

She snapped her pocket-book together, unlatched the door and stepped out.

Her house, like all the other houses in the colored district on that hill, stood below the level of the street.

Sara puffed a little as she climbed over the ditch where last night's rain had left a little water.

"Wished they'd let that new road come this side of town," she panted aloud as she came up on the street.

She began to pick the driest spots in the mud to walk through for there were no sidewalks.

"Hi, Sara! Looks like spring's most here!" a voice called.

Sara halted and looked around. A tall, dark colored woman of indeterminate age leaned over the gate of a yard across the road.

"Aw, hi, Miss Susie!" Sara greeted her. She drew nearer to the woman. "I'm 'bout to go to town to make market."

"Jim home yet?"

"Naw, but I can't wait for him to git home! I got right smart buying to do."

"Y'all having company tomorrer?"

Sara drew herself up proudly.

"Naw! Jes' Jim and me but I'clare I feel like eatin' a good dinner like I used to when times was good! I want ice cream and two kinds of cake!"

The other woman did not answer. Instead she looked off toward the top of the hill.

A white cottage stood there.

"Wonder how Miss Drake is?" Miss Susie said after a pause.

Sara looked surprised. "She sick?"

"Naw—! I jes' wondered how she was!"

There was another silence. Sara stirred restlessly and said, "Well—! I'll be gettin' along!"

The other woman did not speak again nor did she look at her.

Sara walked off, down the hill.

Once she looked back. Miss Susie still stood as she had left her, staring down the road after Sara.

"What ails Miss Susie? What she say that 'bout Miss Drake for? She ain't no company of Miss Drake! Jes' said that so's I wouldn't git to tell her what I'se having for dinner! How is Miss Drake!!"

Her mind went back to the house at the crest of the hill, too.

Nobody was Miss Drake's "company." She lived alone with her two children, Sandy and Marie, and earned her living by sewing for white families of the little southern town of Redmond.

"She sews so much for white folks, she thinks she's white too!" was the common belief among the Negroes of the town. "Always stayin' to herself! Keeping that girl and boy cooped up all the time."

"That gal ain't home all the time! She off somewhere passing, workin' in a white store," town gossip proclaimed.

"How anybody going to pass in Redmond where everybody knows everybody else here!" others countered.

Sara thought of all this as she pushed on down the hill toward the shopping district.

She paused once near a clump of bushes to rest.

The shrubbery shook suddenly and a tawny, freckled-face boy in his teens clambered out.

Sara recognized Sandy Drake by the reddish hair.

"Howdy, Miss Sara!" the boy muttered.

"How are you, Sandy! How's your ma and your sister?"

The boy flushed and stuttered something. Sara could not understand him. She tried another tack.

"How they makin' out with the new road? I see you come 'cross the hill from that away? Ain't they knocked off for the day yet?

Sandy reddened still more. "Yas'm—er—I guess so! I dunno. Ma sent me out to meet sister."

He plunged on up the hill abruptly.

Sara stared after him. "What ails that little fool? Big as any man and can't talk straight so you can get any sense out of it!"

SHE watched the boy out of sight and quickening her pace set off down the hill until she reached the base where the colored section ended and Market street—the main street—began.

She crossed Market street, lost herself in the midst of the mud and chicken crates, the side-walk vendors and hawkers, the muddy automobiles and crowds of poor whites and Negroes that made Saturday the most exciting day of the week in that town.

With a sort of giddy triumph Sara acquired her chicken and her yellow yams, her fat back and greens, lemons, sugar, flour and vanilla.

At the end of an hour she found herself outside of the Five-and-Ten at the far end of the market, trying to juggle her packages so the oysters would not spill and with but twenty cents in her purse.

"Guess I'll git me an ice-pick! That other thing is enough to try the devil!"

Ten minutes later, with the ice-pick and a pound of pink jaw breakers added to her pack, Sara started back up the hill.

She was heavy with packages—and not one cent was left to her.

She was tired but she was happy. She crunched the candy noisily.

A broad black woman hung across the fence at the first house she reached.

"Hi, Sara! she called in greeting as Sara came abreast her gate. "Looks like you been doin' right smart buyin'?"

Sara choked hastily over a large piece of candy to make room for a complete answer. "Yas. I been jes' makin' a little market! Spent every bit of fo' dollars for just this one meal, though!" she broke off to giggle and watch the effect of her statement.

The other woman let her eyes sweep up and down Sara's figure.

Then she gazed up the hill toward the top and back down and said, "I hear that one of them travelin' buses done fell over on the new road!"

Startled, Sara forgot to giggle.

"Ain't nobody hurt!" she managed to ask. "You know, Jim's workin' over there."

The other woman shook her head doubtfully. "I ain't heard that. I jes' heard 'bout the bus! Say! Whyn't you cut across the back lots and see?"

Sara shot off without saying goodbye and left the other gazing with veiled eyes after her.

ANXIETY and the uneven ground of the fields brought a breathless Sara upon the highway.

A cross-country bus lay on its side in a ditch, a group of people, apparently passengers, and mostly white, stood clumped disconsolately around their bags piled in the road. All the machinery used for excavating the road stood idle. No laborers were in sight.

Uncle Eph, a deaf Negro who claimed to be one hundred and ten, sat on a rock nearby cleaning a red lantern.

Sara approached him.

"Who got hurt!" she screamed, pointing to the bus.

"Ain't nobody hurt!,' answered Eph mildly.

Relief loosed Sara's giggles again. "That Annie May Jones had me thinkin' all y'all was kilt out here on the job!" she cried.

Eph rubbed his lamp. "I gotta git these things ready for the night. I keeps the lights on this here job at night."

"So Jim told me. Is Jim gone home?"

Eph scrubbed the lamp in his hand and sat it down on the ground. He did not answer this time.

"I reckon Jim's gone on home!" Sarah screamed again.

Uncle Eph sat back suddenly, shook his rag out and looked Sara directly in the face.

"Go on up to the tool shed!" he said loudly. "Go on up there!"

Sara gaped at him amazed, "Guess the poor soul don' know what I ast him!" She hesitated an instant, thrust her hand in her bag of candy and set two pieces down beside Eph. Then she started off up the hill toward the shed.

The door of the shed was open. Sara peered into the semi-darkness there. She saw nobody and was about to turn back when a sound came from behind the door.

She thrust her head inside, peered around the door.

Something green waved in her face and she heard a low murmuring. "You kin have it all honey. I'm crazy 'bout you!"

It was Jim's voice—Sara's eyes grew accustomed to the gloom. There was Jim's back, and staring with pale stricken fright across Jim's shoulder was Marie Drake. In her hand she clutched a bill.

Sara's bundles hurtled to the ground. Sara's hands snatched up the new ice-pick. Sara lunged and struck and lunged and struck again.

Then she ran screaming and crying aloud back into the sunshine.

Right outside of the door she ran straight into the arms of Uncle Eph.

"I hadn't ought to a tol' you, honey! I hadn't ought to a tol' you, but I couldn't stand no more to see this deceivin' goin' on!"

The bus driver came striding up the hill.

"What's the matter here?" he demanded with that bustling flimsy authority assumed by cheap whites when they want to impress Negroes.

"She busted her eggs and her flour," Uncle Eph replied laconically. "See?"

He pointed to the ground. The driver glanced indifferently, grunted and turning on his heel, strode back to his own troubles.

When he was out of hearing Eph pushed open the door wide. He saw the ice pick on the ground. He saw the blood on the ice pick.

"Y'all?" Eph shouted.

There was no reply. Eph drew Sara in, closed the door and struck a match to a candle.

Jim lay across the girl, Marie. Blood was streaming from one of her eyes and she lay staring in terror. In her hands she still held the money.

"You ain't dead! Ain't no use pertendin'." Uncle Eph ordered, "Git up."

"He's bleeding to death on me!" screamed the girl hysterically and began to cry.

"Shet up! Want all them folks from the bus come here and take you to the lock-up?" Eph cried.

Eph knelt beside Jim—rolled him over a little. He beckoned to Sara who leaned, hands clutched at her throat against the door.

"Ain't dead! Neck cut on the side. I'll git some water and we'll lug him 'cross the fields to Dr. Butler."

Eph stood up, yanked the door open back to its hinges. He pointed to Marie and shouted loudly as if she too were deaf, "Git on out of here! Tell your ma its best to keep young ones like you tied in their own yard!"

AND that is how it happened that Marie Drake dropped out of sight.

"She gone North to school"—some people said. "Passin'!!"

But Sandy and his mother knew that Marie sat at home with her left eye closed forever and a deep ugly scar marring her left cheek.

Shame made a wall around the house on top of the hill.

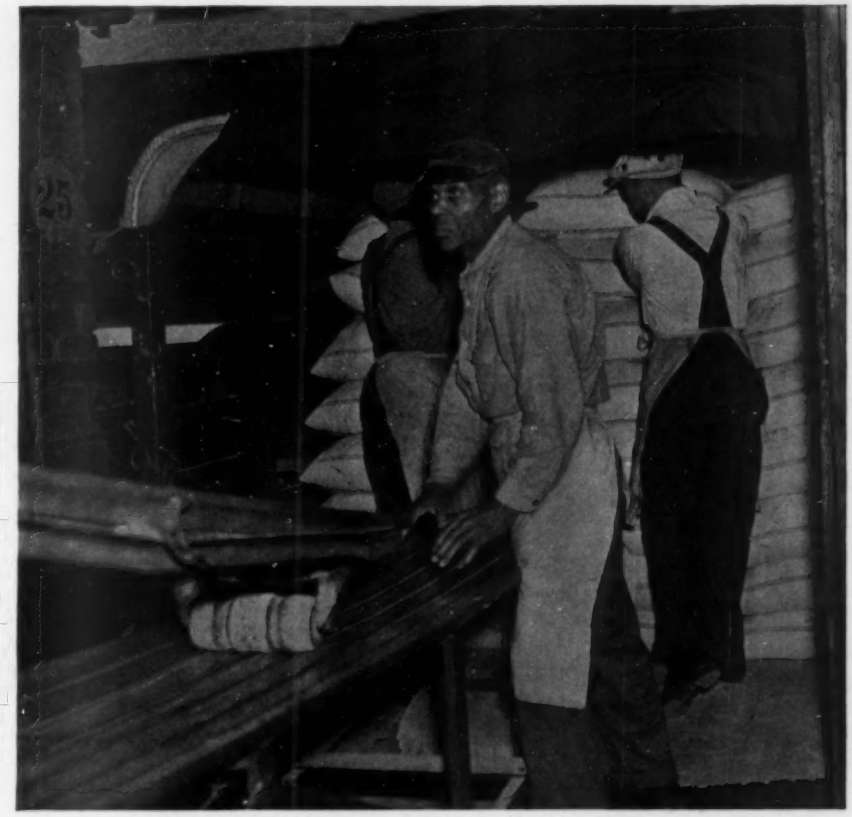
And that is how it happened that Jim Brown had to lay off working—" 'cause a pick fell on his arm"—a useless arm hanging limp, a tendon cut at the shoulder.

Spring passed, the job on the road ended, but the tendon did not heal. Jim sat listless on the porch and gazed back toward the hills that hid the highway. Sometimes he looked up toward the top of the hill.

He did not say anything. He did not even offer to go fishing any more.

(*Continued on page* 92)

4,000 Jobs Menaced by Sugar Act



Loading refined sugar into trucks

THE 1940 Congress will make a decision of vital importance to the 4,000 colored workers in the cane sugar refining industry in the United States.

MR. SIMPSON

The danger lies in the changes which may be made in the Sugar Act which comes up for revision this year. The Sugar Act of 1937 provided for the importation of about 600,000 tons of refined sugar from the tropics.

All other sugar from the tropics is raw, and is refined in plants in the United States.

These plants employ about 4,000 colored workers — approximately 20% of all the employees in cane sugar refineries in this country. There is no discrimination in the industry and colored workers are paid at the same rate as white workers. They are also granted promotions and a number of them are foremen in plants in the East and in California.

These men are paid about $5 a day as against a wage of about $1 a day paid to workers in the refineries outside of the United States.

These Negro workers in the refineries in America and their white fellow-workers are deeply concerned because of the rumor that the Sugar Act of 1937 will be revised by the present Congress and may permit one million tons of refined sugar to be imported instead of the present 600,000 tons.

If this is done, the American workers will suffer a sharp loss in jobs, in fact, one refinery will be shut down completely and others will be forced to go on a short-week basis. It will mean that colored and white American workers will be thrown out of jobs by sugar refined at sub-standard wages in the tropics.

MR. WATT

In order to bring their message to the public, both colored and white workers have organized the National League to Protect Colored Workers in the Cane Sugar Refining Industry. Leonard Simpson of New York is chairman of the League, and Montague Watt of New Jersey is treasurer. The headquarters is at 982 Union avenue, New York, N. Y. Messrs. Simpson and Watt have issued a joint statement saying:

"We believe that all persons with an interest in the welfare of the colored worker will want to know the problem which confronts us and help us keep the 4,000 workers represented by our League at their jobs. Our workers are unionized, some in the CIO and some in the AF of L; they enjoy collective bargaining, a five-day week, vacations with pay, equal treatment with all workers, and they share in opportunities for advancement. In our industry colored workers form nearly 20%, whereas the figures show that for the country generally, Negro workers are about 7% in industry.

"Another item that should appeal to our people is the fact that nearly one-half the colored workers in one plant alone have been employed from ten to twenty years; 12% have been employed over twenty years. Furthermore, these workers are not discharged when they reach the age of 40, for the survey shows that 52% are over 40 years old.

"We know that from the standpoint of skill and experience we can hold our jobs. What we need is help from the country at large so that the number of jobs we hold will not be cut down by an increase in the importation of refined sugar."

Persons who desire more detailed information may write to Mr. Simpson at 982 Union avenue, New York, N. Y. He will be glad to supply information which can be used in letters and resolutions to congressmen and senators.

FSA Photo

Children in a nursery school at the Lakeview, Arkansas project

Giving the Children a Chance

By Robert C. Weaver

The White House Conference on Children in a Democracy was held January 19-20 in Washington. Dr. Weaver here outlines the benefits of such meetings with their special attention to children in a minority group

"WE are concerned about the children of minority groups in our population who, confronted with discrimination and prejudice, must find it difficult to believe in the just ordering of life or the ability of the adults in their world to deal with life's problems," said President Roosevelt in the key-note address which launched the Fourth White House Conference on Children in a Democracy April 26, 1939.

Planned by a committee of 72 persons, of whom four were Negroes, the conference from its inception recognized the vital principle of reflecting democracy in its own composition. This policy of minority group participation was further extended when twenty-one Negroes were included among persons invited to the White House for the Conference and a Negro member was assigned to the Committee on Report which constitutes the guiding body. Thus, during the months of discussion and preparation of preliminary statements, there has been a significant degree of Negro participation in the committees considering the various aspects of child welfare.

These committee meetings and their findings as reflected in the early statements of the report committee impress one with the fact that many of the problems which we as Negroes are prone to consider racial are in no wise restricted to any single racial group in the nation. Although racial factors unquestionably tend to sharpen these problems and give them new and frequently more severe expressions, they do not change their basic structure. Poverty, bad housing, poor education, inadequate relief, and insufficient social security are handicaps which the Negro suffers in common with all underprivileged peoples in this nation; and, it is imperative in a democracy that such deficiencies be corrected for all so that every child may be relieved from the penalties which they exact.

The conference, in thus recognizing the relationship of minority racial groups to the nation as a whole, accepted by implication a fundamental criterion for measuring the extent to which the institutions it is to analyze approach the requisites of democracy. This criterion conforms with that so succintly defined by John Dewey when he said that a society which seeks to discount the effects of economic inequalities and makes provision for participation in its good by all its members on equal terms is insofar democratic.

That this principle is firmly rooted in White House Conferences on Children in a Democracy is attested by the fact that the 1930 conference asserted that one of the rights for children was "to grow up in a family with an adequate standard of living and the security of a stable income for every child, regardless of race, or color, or situation, wherever he may live under the protection of the American flag." The past decade, which has witnessed the supreme struggle of democratic institutions for survival in a world confronted with unparallel intensification of all its problems, has not altered this emphasis upon economic factors. Many who were among the youth of 1930 are adults today. It is, therefore, most significant that the statement of the 1930 conference is repeated in the current conference's preliminary statement on *Economic Aid to Families*. The report further states that the idea is not new, but axiomatic since the welfare of children is bound up with the welfare of their families, and that both depend upon a stable income sufficient to provide an adequate standard of living. Certainly, this need for economic security and sufficiency is also a primary requirement for Negro families and their children.

Recommendations Aid Negroes

It follows that many of the proposed recommendations of the conference directed to the solution of economic problems, are basic to Negro children.

The first proposal in the preliminary statement on economic aid calls for the extension of the benefits of social insurance to a larger number of children and to afford more adequate protection to all children affected. It is specified that the existing provisions for unemployment compensation, old-age and survivor's insurance, and workmen's compensation should be extended to cover those who are employed in agriculture and domestic service. A stable policy of flexible work programs for the unemployed is also urged.

It is subsequently stated in the preliminary statement that "Further development of social insurance will promote the interest of millions of children. All the existing systems leave outside their protection large groups of wage earners as well as the self-employed. This operates to produce inequalities in the proportion of the population covered in different sections of the country and in different elements of the population." A racial group which has persistently urged amendments to extend social security to those occupational categories in which its members are concentrated can ill-afford to ignore the fact that many others would benefit from such extensions.

But the community of interest does not stop here. Again we find in the report a passage which, by the universality of its implications, simply broadens the position which the Negro has consistently held in this struggle for equitable participation in programs of social reform. "How economic assistance is administered to families in need concerns every member of a democratic society. The larger the number of families needing assistance, the more important it is that the help they receive should be of such amount and such nature and should be given in such a way as to keep them, or enable them to become, acceptable fellow-citizens. To this end, assistance must be accessible on equal terms to all in equal need; must be given as a right, not as a favor; must be given promptly when needed, not delayed until bitterness and resentment or despair set in; must be dependable; and must be adjusted to changes in need."

The Cry for Jobs

On every side Negroes cry out: "We want, we need, we must have jobs!" But, again, this is not the only voice to be heard in the throng; for, as the preliminary statement observes, "The greatest need of the children of America in 1940 is work for the 8 million or 9 million unemployed adults—'real work at real wages,' whether in private employment or on a Federal work program—and a prospect that there will be work for the children themselves as they reach working age." Thus the principal problem for all children of all races will approach solution as their families achieve economic security in the present and as they are assured this security for the future.

It is, indeed, important for society with its children, regardless of race, to know that its problems accrue from those of the individual groups of which it is composed. But until this principal is universally acknowledged and integrated into our economic structure, certain realities must be recognized; thus the conference reports indicate that the existence of programs designed to extend security to the people will not alone assure equitable participation in the benefits by colored citizens. For just as economic security for Negroes cannot be achieved through racial approaches alone, neither can this goal be attained by ignoring the existence of racial prejudice and the unique status of a minority racial group.

It is for these reasons that the preliminary statement on Children in Minority Groups includes a description of the disadvantages faced by minority children. This is preceded by a statement indicating that because of the nature of our population and our tradition of judging each man according to his merits as a human being, we should be free of race prejudice. Yet, if we face facts, it is necessary for us to admit that "full racial tolerance is an ideal far from realization."

The first and greatest disadvantage of minority children is that of poverty. Families of minority groups have high birth rates and high infant and adult death rates; they are forced to live in ghettos and other crowded districts, in the worst housing and the least favorable environment for the normal and desirable development of children. Their incomes are low; they are usually concentrated in undesirable, unsteady, and underpaid occupation; they are confronted with occupational discrimination.

Segregation in education continues and means not only separate but also inferior facilities. Relief standards in many communities are different for minority families, "with assistance less adequate and harder to obtain, often rationalized on the grounds that minority families are not used to as much as others and are more quickly demoralized by relief." Current educational practice often encourages feelings of inferiority, and certain textbooks perpetuate them. The poll tax and other devices deprive certain minority groups of their exercise of voting and citizenship privileges. Finally, the Klan, Silver Shirts, and other such groups make minorities the butt of their attacks. "Such intimidation has a bearing on the extent to which minority groups can be effective in obtaining better services and conditions for their children."

Statement on Discrimination

These things we as Negroes know. It is important, however, that in a democracy they be understood generally and that their weakening effect upon our institutions be outlined repeatedly. It is in light of such a need that the following comment, appearing in the Preliminary Statement on Children in Minority groups under the caption "Larger Dangers of Race Discrimination," is so significant.

"Having at heart the welfare of all children, there are other reasons in addition to the number of children directly involved and the unique character of some of their handicaps why we must give special attention to the minority problem. It is a problem which deeply affects the whole population and hence all children. Race prejudice and discrimination are not peculiar to any par-

(*Continued on page* 94)

Subjects and Citizens in French Africa

By George Padmore

It makes all the difference in the world whether an African is a citizen of France or a subject. The French embrace the very small number of leading black citizens, granting them full social equality, but only for the purpose of controlling the dark millions who are only subjects

"LIBERTY, Equality, Fraternity." It is behind this once progressive slogan of the French Revolution that the present-day rulers of the Third Republic have so skilfully masked their actual reactionary and repressive colonial policy. So cleverly has the mask been used that the French capitalist class has been able, more than any other imperialist power, to deceive the world regarding the true nature of its despotism towards its colonial populations.

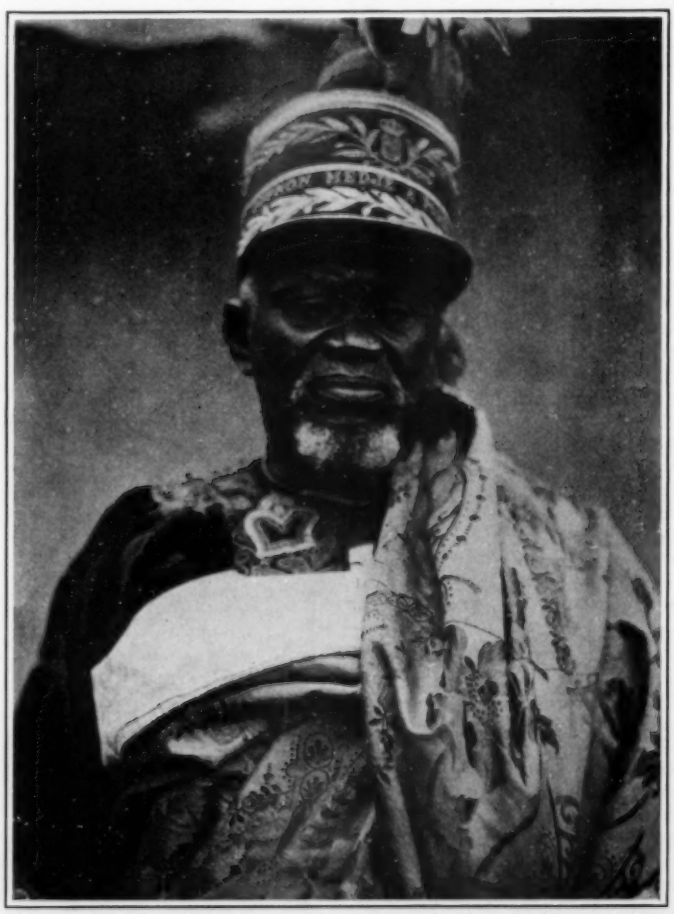
Most non-French Negroes, especially Americans, visiting Paris, with its relative absence of color prejudice, its gaiety and charming cultured atmosphere, invariably adduce that France is the most liberal imperialist nation in the world. There is no greater illusion. It is quite true that the French, as compared with the Anglo-Saxon peoples, manifest less racial antipathy toward people of color. But the same can be said of the Spaniards—even the supporters of France—the Italians, and other Latin races, regardless of their political ideology. No one, I am sure, would have the temerity to accuse me of being an admirer or defender of Fascism. Nevertheless, from the standpoint of interracial congeniality, I would rather live in Rome than in London. But were I to judge Italian colonial policy from this angle, I could truly be accused of superficiality. Thus, while I personally consider the French in many ways a charming people and Paris a delightful city, this in no way blinds me to the fact that French colonial policy is as reactionary, and in many respects more repressive than that of the British.

Those people who have not made a comparative study of colonial administrations, but who form their conclusions on the basis of acquaintance with "assimilated" French Negroes, find it almost impossible to appreciate how very minute is the section of the French colonial populations permitted to enjoy the status of citizenship, or even permitted the enjoyment of elementary civil liberties. I hope that this article will help to correct this fallacy, for once corrected the spectacle of French Imperialism will be revealed in its true perspective, and the relation of the colored races under the Tricolor seen in its right colors.

Largest African Empire

France has the largest Colonial Empire in Africa, the creation of a deliberate national policy. Upon the loss of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871, the Third Republic turned to Africa to acquire there lands which would compensate for these provinces. St. Louis, Dakar and Goree on the Senegal coast and Algeria in the North were then the only French possessions on the continent. Today the French Empire stretches from the Mediterranean in the North to the Congo in Central Africa; from Senegal on the West coast to the frontier of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, with French Somaliland on the Red Sea and Madagascar off the East coast of Africa. This Empire covers a total area of four million square miles, with a native population of over sixty millions.

The most valuable possessions, economically and militarily, are Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, in North Africa. Situated in the temperate zone, they have afforded favorable facilities for white colonization. There are 987,252 Europeans living in Algeria, most of whom are French, and of 196,000 in Tunis, 95,000 are Italians. Though the



Chief Zunon Medjei of Porto Novo, Dahomey, French West Africa

largest of the three colonies, Morocco has the smallest white population—about 195,000. The total native population of these territories is about 14,000,000 distributed as follows: 6,247,432 in Algeria; 2,603,000 in Tunis; and 6,101,440 in Morocco.

Methods of administration differ as much in the French colonies as in the British. Here, however, I shall not discuss the problems of the Berber-Arab peoples of North Africa, but will confine myself to the Negroid races who inhabit the west and equatorial sections of French Africa.

Two federated groups make up French tropical Africa: West Africa (Afrique Occidentale Francaise) and Equatorial Africa (Afrique Equatoriale Francaise). The federation of West Africa, established in 1895, was reorganized in 1933. Colonies included in the new scheme are Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Mauritius, Niger and Dakar dependencies. The Upper Volta lost its colonial independence, and its territory and population were incorporated into Niger, Suden and Ivory Coast. The total area of this federation is 1,604,157 square miles, and the native population nearly 15,000,000. There are 24,719 whites, of which 17,631 are French citizens—officials, traders, merchants, and planters — scattered throughout the various regions.

The French Sahara, a desert region of 1,500,000 square miles, forms the northern boundary of Upper Senegal, Niger and Chad. The other federated territory, French Equatorial Africa—sometimes referred to as the French Congo—is composed of four colonies: Middle Congo, Ubangi-Shari, Gabun and Chad. Although they cover an area five times larger than France, the total population is only 3½ millions, a density of four or five to the square kilometre. The story of the depopulation of these equatorial lands is one of the blackest episodes in the colonizing history of French Imperialism in Africa. The story in all its harrowing details has been written up by DeBrazza, Felicien Challaye, Albert Londres and Andre Gide.

All the territories of Equatorial Africa are administered collectively by a Governor General and a Secretary-General. The West African colonies, however, each have a Governor, all of whom are responsible to the Governor-General of the Federation. Both Governors-General are responsible for the actual administration and execution of civil and military policies in their respective federated groups, subject to the control of the Colonial Minister. But fiscal policy is directed from Paris, it being necessary for all budgets to have the approval of the home government before adoption by the Conseils d'Administration. The French Parliament is also responsible for authorization of all loans. There is, in fact, a centralization of authority, making for the economic unity of the Empire.

French West African girl

Chiefs Have No Authority

Conseils d'Administration are advisory bodies which assist the Governors-General in the formulation of local policies. Forty-five members compose the Colonial Council for West Africa, most of them European officials and handpicked chiefs from Senegal. There are a few elected members, like the Deputy for Senegal and representatives of the Municipal Councils of Dakar, St. Louis and Goree. Recently an attempt has been made to consult indigenous opinion outside Senegal, for which purpose a number of consultative bodies known as Conseils des Notables indigenes have been created in various parts of West Africa. These native dignitaries, however, are not necessarily hereditary chiefs but government functionaries.

According to the Minister for Colonies, the aim of such councils is the gradual "formation of an elite which will later be able to cooperate more closely and in a more personal manner in the economic and financial life of the colony." Such so-called chiefs are useful to the French officials as interpreters of Government decrees to the unassimilated masses, as tax collectors and labor recruiting agents.

The individual colonies are broken into *cercles*. Each of these administrative units is directed by a white Commandant, whose black agent is known as a chief. These agents are the products of special schools for the sons of chiefs and official interpreters, maintained for the purpose of producing a native elite which has assimilated French culture. They have no authority of their own, but speak and act for the Commandant of the *cercle*. They are paid for their services by a rebate on the taxes they collect, an incentive to squeeze as much as possible out of the native peasants.

Divide and Rule

The natives of the French tropical colonies are grouped as citizens and subjects. All natives born in the towns of St. Louis, Dakar, and the island of Goree are citizens, the black populations of these places having been elevated to this status by a purely historical accident, which had relation to events which occurred in the island of San Domingo (Haiti) during the French Revolution. As a result of the revolt of the Haitian slaves, many of whose ancestors came from Sene-Gambia, the Paris Assembly, in its Declaration of the Brotherhood of Man in 1794, abolished slavery throughout the colonies then in the possession of France. These covered St. Louis, Dakar and Goree at that time the only French possessions on the West coast of Africa. With the hardening of reaction against the Revolution in France, slavery was re-established in 1803. Negroes found themselves once more the chattels of their white masters. But since freedom once gained is not readily ceded, the West Indian blacks took up the revolutionary struggle which had languished in France. Under Toussaint L'Ouverture they led an open rebellion against their white overlords, and after Haiti had won its freedom from French sovereignty, the French bourgeoisie in its own defense granted full political rights to all free persons existing in their colonies in 1848.

Since that time all Africans in the three territories mentioned above, along with those in the other French overseas possessions of Martinique and Guadeloupe in the West Indies, French Guiana in South America, and Reunion in the Indian Ocean, all of which formed part of the French Empire at the time of the 1848 decree have had the vote but natives in French Africa born outside of St. Louis, Dakar and Goree are subjects, as these territories were acquired after 1848, when the French bourgeoisie, having consolidated their power, had grown conservative and saw no reason to extend the rights of citizenship to native races collectively. Thus while a million and a half natives living in the coastal areas of Senegal are *citizens*, the 60 millions living outside these territories are *subjects*. Let us see the significance of this distinction.

(*Continued on page* 82)

An "A-Plus" Insurance Company

THE Southern Aid Society of Virginia, Inc., is pleased to again have the privilege to present to its policyholders and the public through THE CRISIS a review of its history and the stewardship of its officers and employees.

On February 25, 1893, a group of far-seeing and practical men at Richmond, Virginia, incorporated the Southern Aid and Insurance Company primarily to aid colored people in securing more adequate insurance protection and security at reasonable cost, and to offer to some of the hundreds of young men and women who were then graduating from high and normal schools employment in keeping with their training rather than forcing them to resume employment of a menial character.

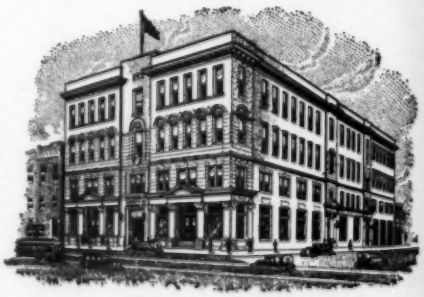
Through the nearly 47 years of the continuous operation of this company there have been many changes in its corporate structure, the scope of its business and even its name. One remarkable phase of the history of the company is that at the present time two of the original group are still alive and holding responsible positions with it. The capital stock of the company has been increased from time to time from $5,000, its original maximum, to its present paid-up capital of $150,000. In each instance when increasing its capital stock, the company made special provisions for its employees to become shareholders; therefore, probably, a larger number of them hold interest in this company than can be found in any similar corporation. Among the other important changes in the corporation's structure and practices were the qualifying to write all forms of life as well as weekly health policies and the maintaining of a full legal reserve on both life and health policies during the past ten years.

Office Buildings Erected

This company, being a pioneer in this field of Negro endeavor, soon found that no suitable office spaces were available to Negro businesses, even in the larger cities over its territory. It, therefore, entered upon the important task of erecting in such cities modern, steam-heated and well arranged office buildings on desirable sites for use not only by this company, but other business and professional interests as well. While the insurance departments do not now look with favor upon insurance companies investing their funds in real estate other than that absolutely needed for the conduct of their businesses, or that which has been taken in through foreclosure of mortgages carried by them on such properties, yet any informed person will readily see that the ownership of such buildings not only filled a pressing need of business and professional activities, but gave both the company and the race in these cities a higher status, and its business a degree of permanency which counteracted the harmful effects which the failures and disappearances of many organizations had left in such communities. In passing, it seems well to say for the benefit of the critically-minded that some of the states which took the initiative in legislation limiting the investments of insurance companies in real estate were among the foremost to later enact legislation encouraging such companies to enter upon construction programs for better housing of thousands living in squalor in the big cities.

Prompt Payment

The company from the beginning set as its cardinal feature liberal and prompt payment of claims to its policyholders during periods of illness or disability and following the death of policyholders and has faithfully lived up to this high standard, and next to this uplifting function, it has always provided liberal provisions for its employees; therefore, its agents enjoy more liberal commissions and other forms of compensation than are generally given to persons in this type of employment. In fact this company's agency contract is conceded to be a model by all experienced insurance men who have examined it. Indeed, a number of companies have secured permission from this company to use it. Then too, this company's agents work under the full advance and arrear system of accounts or record keeping. A number of officers and supervisors of other companies learned this system while employed by this company. In fact, many of them sought employment with it solely to learn or



Home office building

Agency department

Accounting division

J. T. CARTER
President and General Counsel

W. A. JORDAN
Secretary-Manager

Photos by Brown

J. E. HALL, JR.
Assistant Secretary-Manager

master this system. In view of the fact that many companies engaged in the industrial insurance business have found the plan of compensating agents through commission, times and bonuses too expensive or burdensome, it seems in order to say this company has continued this plan because it is aware of the fierce competition which its agents must face, not only from other insurance companies, fraternals, associations and other organizations, but also in many places from the numbers and other rackets. For instance, some policyholders will insist that the agent call two or three times a week to collect one dime, for which they secure the best protection or security for four full weeks, while they will play a dime or more each day on numbers when only a very few reap any reward or benefit.

Rating is "A-Plus"

This company at the close of business December 30, 1939, although operating in a very limited territory, namely, Virginia and District of Columbia, and writing at this time only intermediate, industrial life and weekly health policies, had the following impressive financial standing as a guarantee for both security behind each policy in force and certainty of employment to the several hundred young men and women on its rolls:

Cash in banks and trust companies in excess of $100,000; real estate $559,000; mortgages, bonds and policy loans $260,000; policy reserve $420,000; reserve for depreciation in assets $54,000; deposits of employes and miscellaneous liabilities $35,000; paid-up capital $150,000; and surplus in excess of $225,000. Dunne's Insurance Reporting Service after a critical analysis of this company's annual statement for year ending December 31, 1938, gave it the following rating: "Policyholders' rating January 1, 1939, A+ (Excellent)."

During the past year new blood in the persons of Dr. J. M. G. Ramsey and Dr. J. M. Newman was added to the board of directors. The full roster follows: Jas. T. Carter, president and general counsel, B. A. Cephas, vice-president, A. Washington, vice-president, W. A. Jordan, secretary-manager, J. E. Hall, Jr., assistant secretary-manager, Walter E. Baker, treasurer, Chas. N. Jackson, Dr. J. M. Newman, Dr. J. M. G. Ramsey, W. E. Randolph and Percy Wilson.

Arnett G. Lindsay Heads Manuscript Research

The appointment of Arnett G. Lindsay as supervisor of Negro manuscripts for all Historical Records Survey Projects of the Work Projects Administration was announced in February by Mrs. Florence Kerr, assistant commissioner of work projects.

Under Mr. Lindsay's supervision, an intensive survey will be made of manuscript material relating to the Negro.

Note On Commercial Art

By LANGSTON HUGHES

You've done taken my blues and gone—
You sing 'em in Paris
And you sing 'em in Hollywood Bowl,
And you mixed 'em up with symphonies
And you fixed 'em
So they don't sound like me.

Yep, you done taken my blues and gone.

You also done took my spirituals and gone—
And put me in Macbeth
And all kinds of Swing Mikados
And in everything but what's about me—
But someday somebody'll
Stand up and talk about me,
And write about me—
Black and beautiful—
And sing about me,
And put on plays about me!

I reckon it'll be
Me myself!

Sharecroppers: America's Refugees

By Howard Kester

Once a year, during National Sharecroppers' Week, an appeal is made to the nation for aid to help the people of the cotton country help themselves. The Reverend Mr. Kester works day by day with sharecroppers in the cotton country —not in New York—and knows their problems as intimately as any man

A typical sharecropper's cabin

IT is one of the ironies of history that Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* should appear at the precise moment when the culture which was fathered by forces arising antecedently and subsequently to the period which she so well describes should again be overwhelmed by complex economic and social forces more relentless and exhausting than armies, and destined to more completely alter the face of the region than most men suspect.

Certain aspects of an old civilization have indeed gone with the wind, but other elements, perhaps more intransigent and sinister, have remained to cast their deepening shadows upon the land once famous for its moonlight and magnolias, great white houses with winding verandas, mocking birds and live oak trees.

Today overwhelming forces break about the heads of southern country folk as lightning about the shoulders of some mighty mountain, threatening disaster, quick, complete.

The dismal picture of a wretched countryside from whence the fragrance of green things, the smile of strong men, the laughter of children has disappeared haunts the heart of the nation. Fertile land, once the pride of a nation gorged with land, is now eroded, mined-out, exhausted, yielding but stubbornly to the toil of man and beast and machine, turning the face of once crystal rivers to blood red. Giant forests—poplar, pine, spruce, oak, walnut—stretching like a mantle across the highlands and valleys, are gone and in their place red-lipped gullies have appeared, yawning as if ready to gulp down the people.

Men, women, and children, millions strong, black and white, people of the soil, sons of toil, they see, feel, and reap the bitter fruits of a colonial economy, a single crop system resulting in a commercialized agriculture, of slavery and the plantation, of repressive movements, of ignorance, disease and poverty. For them the wells of democracy have never filled, and the wells of religion have long since seemed to go dry.

Warning Sounded

The South is indeed a "wasted land and a wasted people," the nation's "No. 1 economic problem." No section of the population is more aware of this than the men and women of the cotton country who organized and built the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and who early called the nation's attention to the miserable plight of the landless farmers of the South. Their criticism and indictment of southern agriculture was in the beginning either largely ignored or vehemently denied and their efforts to organize were met with violent and brutal repression. Members of the organization were beaten, jailed, evicted from the land, forced into peonage, murdered.

But against overwhelming odds the movement has grown from a few hundred in 1934 to more than 35,000 in 1940. These men and women have built something more than a union; they have built a movement for social emancipation whose purpose it is to achieve economic and social security upon the land for those who till the soil, a share in the fulfillment and extension of democracy and a feeling of active responsibility for the reclamation of the soil and the rehabilitation of the people throughout the region.

Despite the growing understanding of the seriousness of the agricultural problem in the South, despite the heroic sufferings of the people to better their conditions, and despite the brave efforts of the Farm Security Administration to help the sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and day laborers shoulder their burden, the situation has grown worse and is calculated to become increasingly acute.

A combination of factors, including lost markets, the blind devotion to a single crop such as cotton, tobacco, sugar, or rice, the exhaustion of once fertile soil, an anachronistic plantation

(*Continued on page* 93)

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White

Rebuke to Torture

ONCE more the supreme court of the United States has spoken out on civil rights and saved the lives of colored men condemned to death largely on the strength of forced confessions. This practice of holding prisoners without warrant, of torturing them and forcing damaging confessions from them is in vogue in many places in our country, but is part of the routine police procedure in the southern states when Negroes are suspected of crime.

In the Florida case, taken up to the highest court by attorneys of the NAACP, the four defendants were questioned for five days and nights without being formally charged with murder, without a chance to consult friends, relatives or lawyers. Mr. Justice Black, who delivered the unanimous opinion of the court, said:

"The record . . . shows, without conflict, the dragnet methods of arrest on suspicion without warrant, and the protracted questioning and cross questioning of these ignorant young colored tenant farmers by state officers and other white citizens, in a fourth floor jail room, where as prisoners they were without friends, advisers or counselors, and under circumstances calculated to break the strongest nerves and the stoutest resistance. . . . The very circumstances surrounding their confinement and their questioning without any formal charges having been brought, were such as to fill petitioners with terror and frightful misgivings."

In support of the Florida case the high court cited its unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Mississippi*, also carried up and won by attorneys of the NAACP. In Mississippi the three defendants, Brown, Ellington, and Shields, had been tortured to obtain confessions. The supreme court held in that case: "the rack and torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness chair."

In this thirteenth victory of the NAACP before the highest court, due credit must go to S. D. McGill of Jacksonville, Fla., who carried the case five times to the Florida supreme court; and to Leon A. Ransom of the Howard university law school, who, with Mr. McGill, made the oral argument January 4, 1940. These two men, members of the national legal committee of the NAACP, carried on the tradition begun in 1915 when the first case of the then young association—involving the Grandfather clause—was won before the highest court in the land.

The Florida case and the Mississippi case both illustrate the tremendous odds against Negroes arrested in a prejudice-ridden local community where they are at the mercy of local officials and local public opinion. They are terrorized and stripped of all their rights. With high drama the supreme court, on the birthday of the Great Emancipator, speaking through the mouth of a justice born and reared in Alabama, re-affirmed the principles of the Bill of Rights and served notice that all communities must respect them, regardless of the race, color or creed of the suspects in crime.

Maryland and Finland

DURING February the country was treated to the spectacle of a mob of approximately a thousands persons on the Maryland Eastern Shore tearing at a jail, trying to lynch a colored woman and her 14-year-old daughter. The two were not accused of crime; they were only *suspected* of knowing someone who, in turn, was *suspected* of having committed a crime. Fortunately the state police, at the direct order of Governor O'Conor, rescued the woman and child *after* they had been dragged from the jail at Snow Hill by the mob.

Shortly after this exhibition, wealthy and secure Senator Millard E. Tydings of Maryland made a radio speech seeking support for Finland. The rest of this editorial was sent in on a postcard by an anonymous writer of Flushing, N. Y. We reproduce it exactly because we could not say it any better, even if we corrected the spelling:

"Feb. 17th, 1940. U. S. Senator M. E. Tydings of Maryland spoke on the radio for the Fins. He say the Fins are out-numbered 3 to 1 in their struggle. Well, in his state, Maryland, a woman and her daughter was outnumbered, recently, 998 to 2. Would the Senator like to comment on that type of American 'civilization'?"

Would the Senator, now?

Time Is Not Ripe

BRITAIN has given Gandhi and India the same answer our good white people are always giving us: the time is not ripe. Gandhi wants freedom for India now, asking, quite logically, that Britain practice what it is preaching to Hitler, democracy, liberty, etc., etc. England replies that she will take up that matter after the war.

Let's see—didn't the United States tell the colored brother in 1917 not to mind the lynchings, disfranchisement, economic strangulation, pitiful education, and social ostracism, but to go ahead and fight to "make the world safe for democracy" and when the war was over he would find his problems solved in the larger good to humanity?

Take it from us, Brother Gandhi—

John L. Lewis on the Poll Tax

SPEAKING February 10 in Washington to the American Youth Congress, John L. Lewis, chairman of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, president of the United Mine Workers, pioneer non-jim crow union, said:

"The Congress of Industrial Organization . . . stands for the preservation of civil liberties. It asks that that protection and those liberties be accorded every citizen born under this flag, regardless of his color or his creed or his geographical location.

"You know, we have a brand spanking new Supreme Court, 1940 model. And I am in favor of giving that Supreme Court one particular job right away so that we can find out whether or not we really have as good a Supreme Court as some of us believe.

"There are these eight southern states that deprive Americans without money of the right to vote. They levy poll taxes against the poor, Negroes and whites, and they cannot vote in elections unless they pay their poll tax, and in addition to that if through a period of years they have been so poor that they could not either pay it or vote, whenever the time comes for them to pay up if they have any money, they have to pay for all the defaulted years in order to vote.

"There isn't any politician in this country, there isn't any lawyer or a Congressman or a sociologist or ordinary citizen who does not understand that those laws and those poll taxes are levied against the people of those States in order to impair their constitutional rights as native Americans to vote in the political elections. All right.

"I think that is just about as cowardly a practice as any politician could ever devise to take away from a free-born American inalienable rights granted under the Constitution and supposed to be protected under the flag.

"I am in favor of the President and the Attorney General of the United States instructing the Civil Liberties Bureau of the Department of Justice to bring in the Federal courts of this country a judicial proceeding and carry it to the Supreme Court of the United States, a judicial proceeding to attack and strike down those damnable provisions inflicted upon the citizenship of those southern states in these iniquitous poll taxes.

"While we are talking about civil liberties in this country, and the Attorney General of the United States talked about them to you from this platform last night, let him exercise the wits of those hundreds of lawyers that his department employs, by putting them to work upon a judicial procedure that is designed to restore to Americans in the southern states just the right to vote, and when that is done, why, then we can take time out to see who the people of those states would like to vote for in some election."

French Africa

(*Continued from page 77*)

The black citizens of Senegal elect their own Deputy to the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, and share with the white settlers a certain amount of autonomy in the administration of Dakar, St. Louis, and Goree, which have the status of municipalities. A privilege of great significance allowed to the Moslem citizens of Senegal is the right to many wives, a privilege denied to white Frenchmen under the Constitution.

The subjects have no constitutional rights, but by fulfilling certain civil and military qualifications they may apply to the government to grant them citizenship. For example, Monsieur Mandel, the French Minister for Colonies, has issued a decree since the war, the significance of which may have escaped many. It states that the right to vote will be given to natives of Madagascar and others who voluntarily enlist for military service; a privilege that will not be extended to those who are conscripted! In this way, the French hope to stimulate recruiting in the colonies. Such natives after the war will be included among the elite, and will be exempted along with other black citizens from such obligations as prestation or forced labor, payment of head tax, and other irksome duties which are the penalty of being a subject. Military service for citizens is limited to two years, which are spent in West Africa. Subjects, on the other hand, are compelled to give three years, which are spent mainly away from home, for the most part in North Africa, Syria, Indo-China, or in France. These are the black mercenaries of French Imperialism, and are used as shock troops in hazardous military undertakings such as suppressing revolts in Syria, Indo-China, etc., and as strike breakers against the white proletariat of France.

The Black Elite

The elite, as full-fledged citizens, have the right to be tried under French law and to retain the service of counsel. Subjects are dealt with by political officials and chiefs, according to local statutes and decrees. A distinction in cultural policy is also made by the Government between the two classes of blacks. The children of the elite are provided with the same educational facilities as those of Europeans living in the colonies, and theoretically are eligible for civil and military posts on the same terms as white Frenchmen. In actual fact very few do enjoy these advantages. Occasionally, as a gesture to prove the liberality of the mother country, an African-born native is given a position of some minor importance. Those Negroes who are elevated to responsible executive positions in the French Colonial military and civil services are invariably West Indian Negroes from Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guiana, who, by reason of their long contact with French culture have become "assimilated." And it is this type of Negro whom one so frequently meets on the Paris boulevards, and who is responsible for the current fallacious view of the liberality of French Imperialism.

Subjects are excluded from even the most minor Government positions and are denied the opportunity of holding commissions in the army. This division between citizens and subjects is a deliberate and calculated policy of French Imperialism, aimed at aligning the elite with the white ruling class, of which they consider themselves a part. Since the French are more or less free from race prejudice, their relationship with "assimilated" Negroes is far more candid than that between the English and the educated native intellectuals of the British colonies. The French officials make a conscious effort to draw the elite to themselves, in order to deprive the inarticulate masses of educated leaders. This device, which enables the French imperialist class to cloak its truly rabid character so cleverly, is responsible for the misplaced admiration of non-French Negroes—particularly Americans—for what they consider the more liberal French methods. It is high time, however, for this widely held illusion to be dispelled. Negroes must learn once and for all that the presence of one or more reactionary colored men in the parliamentary assemblies of the imperialist powers does not augur the independence and freedom of the colonial masses. For instance, Lord Sinha, a colored Indian, holds a seat in the British House of Lords, but he is no more concerned about the freedom of India from the British Raj than is the Negro Deputy, Monsieur Gracien Candace, concerned about the emancipation of Africa from white exploitation. Nobody has ever yet accused Monsier Candace of being an anti-imperialist. They are what Americans call: "Black-white-men."

Within the French Colonial Empire the well-defined division marked out by their rulers between *citizens* and *subjects* has served to hold back the growth of the national liberation movement far behind the militant level it has achieved in the British African colonies. Not one of the Negroes purporting to represent their people in the Chamber of Deputies has ever done a single thing to advance the cause of the great masses of workers and peasants in the colonial territories from which they come. Not one trade union organization have they formed, not one cooperative—nothing. Soldiers or politicians, they have all distinguished themselves in promoting and defending the interests of their white masters. The case of Blaise Diagne, the only African born native to reach a post of any importance in the French administration, serves only too well to illustrate their true role as the hacks of French Imperialism.

Diagne's Activity

Monsieur Diagne was the first Senegalese to be elected a deputy. During the last war he was appointed by Poincare to the temporary rank of High Commissioner and sent to Africa for the purpose of recruiting native tribesmen as cannon fodder at a time when the French Army was very hard-pressed for men. Diagne's services as recruiting sergeant were rewarded by the portfolio of Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies under that monument of reactionary French politics, Pierre Laval, who was later to sell out the last of free Africa — Abyssinia — to Mussolini!

So identified had Blaise Diagne made himself with the interests of his imperial masters that he was sent to defend the policy of prestation or forced labor, which the French rubber plantation companies were so widely practicing under the most inhuman conditions in the French Congo, at the International Convention on Forced Labor held in Geneva in 1928. In the face of the advocacy of many white delegates from other countries for abolition of the system, Diagne maintained that it was "the sovereign right of France to impose conscription in whatever form she pleased." He supported the system on the grounds "of the educational value of conscription to native peoples." France has every reason to be really grateful to her black elite!

The French device of dividing her colonial populations into two different castes has succeeded admirably. For it has contented that section of intellectuals who, under the more *openly* repressive regime in the British colonies, are denied privileges enjoyed by their more fortunate brothers in the French territories. But while the British regime fosters resentment even among the Negro intellectual section and thus allies their interests to some extent with those of the masses in general, the French device has dulled the intellectual Negroes to the necessity for voicing the demand for national freedom and social emancipation.

From the Press of the Nation

The Editorial of the Month

Grapefruit of Wrath

***Pittsburgh Courier*, Pa.**

Hollywood is taking in its stride the fulsome praise from critics and public heaped upon the latest production, "The Grapes of Wrath."

We are told of the amazing courage of Hollywood producers in daring to picture the plight of the underdog.

As a matter of fact, Hollywood is not courageous at all.

A book was published entitled "The Grapes of Wrath," which caught on with the public and won an amazing popularity.

Hollywood, seeing how popular was the book, decided to make a picture out of it because it was a safe investment, almost surefire.

What Hollywood needed and had was not courage but cash.

A much bigger story than the sorry plight of the indigent, ignorant and shiftless white sharecroppers who swarmed into California looking for the Promised Land, is the story of the three centuries of organized, legalized and sanctified Terror to which America's Negroes have been subjected.

If the story of the poor whites is "The Grapes of Wrath," then the story of the poor Negroes is "The Grapefruit of Wrath," because there is certainly more wrath, bitterness and tragedy to be squeezed from the latter than from the former.

The poor white has never been up against any such proposition as the poor Negro; has never had courts, bosses, churches, newspapers and everything else against him; has never faced the bitterness of job discrimination; has never, in fact, been hampered by anything except his orneriness and stupidity, which is admittedly great.

The poor white's experience in America has been a picnic compared to the Negro's, and yet millions of Negroes get jobs, save money, live fairly well, send children through college, own automobiles, operate businesses and win both security and grudging respect.

Here is a great story if there ever was one.

Hollywood has the money to produce that picture.

But Hollywood has neither the desire nor the courage to do it.

It will readily squeeze profits out of "The Grapes of Wrath," for it is popular to weep over the white underdog (though doing nothing to aid him).

But "The Grapefruit of Wrath," the magnificent saga of the Negro's valiant battle to survive America's "cold pogrom," it will not even consider.

We appeal to colored citizens everywhere to give their fullest cooperation to the census now being taken by the United States Government.

It will be to the advantage of colored people to give enthusiastic cooperation when interviewed. What we have and are for the next ten years will be determined largely by what the census reveals.

Research students and others seeking FACTS will turn to the census reports and quote from them freely because the census is authoritative.

Our failure to cooperate in giving an accurate picture of our racial status will undoubtedly operate to our disadvantage.

And, by the way, the Census offices all over the country are accepting applications for jobs as enumerators and clerks, Colored men and women should apply promptly.

Since political influence is acknowledged to be necessary, it might be well to secure as much of this kind of endorsement as possible to accompany your application. . . . Philadelphia, Pa., *Tribune*.

The recent "White House Conference on Children in a Democracy" reportedly concluded from the discussions and research work, that prejudice is the most dangerous element menacing children in America. The heritage of children in a Democracy, the conference found, is to live free from the stinting effects of prejudice.

The conference, without qualification, acknowledged the truth of the contention of many learned scholars that there is no factual basis for the assumption that one race is superior to another. Prejudice alone is the only thing that prevents all of the people, especially those in a Democracy, from acknowledging the same thing. Individuals in all races at times prove themselves superior in one field or another to members of not only other races, but to members of their own race, regardless of whether his race is in the majority or the minority. . . . Louisville, Ky., *The Defender*.

One of the most eloquent pleas made in Congress during the debate on the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill was voiced by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell (D) of Illinois, the only Negro member of the 76th Congress.

By a careful analysis of statistics (by which white Southern Congressmen were endeavoring to prove that lynching was being eradicated by natural enlightenment of the people), Congressman Mitchell showed that the Negro is preponderantly the group that has suffered most at the hands of the mob, which in almost every case has been composed of whites. He also showed that rape was not the major cause for lynching. . . . New York, N. Y., *Age*.

While other racial groups on this country support, defend and protect their leaders in all fields of endeavor, the Negro too often does just the opposite, with the result that the average Negro who seeks and tries to serve his people unselfishly in some capacity of leadership, is usually victimized by the race's ingratitude and unkindness.

Our propensity toward internecine strife and internal bickering, with the resultant killing off or maiming of racial leaders, figuratively speaking, is the besetting sin of the race and the greatest hindrance in our pathway to racial uplift, betterment, advancement and solidarity.

We are short on praise and encouragement for our true and tried leaders, but long on censure and condemnation where neither is justified. . . . Houston, Tex., *Defender*.

According to a news report from Washington, the Department of Agriculture under the leadership of Secretary Wallace is planning a searching investigation of the way in which the landlords are treating the farmers with respect to the benefits that come to them through the Agriculture Adjustment Act.

And while it is true that it has taken a long time for the government to get around to these cases, yet, as the old saying goes, "better late than never." That the landlords have cheated and intimidated the tenants with respect to their rights under the government allowance has been generally known for several years, yet, for some unknown reason, the government has not shown much agressiveness in stamping out this sort of thing. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Supreme Court Saves Four From Death, Setting Aside Convictions in Florida

In a sweeping unanimous opinion handed down on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, and read by Mr. Justice Black, the United States supreme court reversed the death sentences of four colored men who had been convicted in Florida on a charge of murdering a white store keeper.

The court held that their confessions and pleas of guilty had been obtained in gross violation of the guarantees of civil rights provided by the Constitution. The opinion was based upon the "due process" clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

The case was the 13th won before the highest court in the land by lawyers acting for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Out of 14 cases carried up by the N.A.A.C.P., 13 have been won. The Florida case was argued before the supreme court January 4, 1940, by S. D. McGill of Jacksonville, Fla., and Leon A. Ransom of Washington, D. C., members of the N.A.A.C.P. national legal committee.

Attorney McGill has been active in this case since August, 1933. Five times Mr. McGill took the case to the Florida supreme court and five times secured a reversal of the lower court's verdict of guilty. The sixth time, however, March 3, 1939, the supreme court of Florida upheld the convictions and sentences of death. It was then that an appeal was made to the United States supreme court which granted a writ of certiorari and heard the oral argument January 4.

The court's opinion read by Justice Black cited a previous case won by N.A.A.C.P. lawyers before the high court, Brown vs. Mississippi, in which the court also reversed a conviction because torture was used in securing confessions.

It was brought out in the opinion that the four men, Izell Chambers, Walter Woodward, Charlie Davis, and Jack Williamson, had been questioned continuously for five days during which time they were held without warrant and were not permitted to see friends, relatives or lawyers. The court held that the record "shows, without conflict, the dragnet methods of arrest on suspicion without warrant, and the protracted questioning and cross-questioning of these ignorant young colored tenant farmers by state officers and other white citizens, in a fourth floor jail room, where as prisoners they were without friends, advisers or counselors, and under circumstances calculated to break the strongest nerves and the stoutest resistance."

After reviewing the use of the rack, the thumbscrew, and other devices of torture, the court declared:

"And they who have suffered most from secret and dictatorial proceedings have almost always been the poor, the ignorant, the numerically weak, the friendless and the powerless. . . .

"No higher duty, no more solemn responsibility, rests upon this court than that of translating into living law and maintaining this constitutional shield deliberately planned and inscribed for the benefit of every human being subject to our Constitution—of whatever race, creed or persuasion.

"The Supreme Court of Florida was in error, and its judgment is reversed."

Mr. McGill, commenting on the opinion in Jacksonville, said that Florida Negroes regarded the pronouncement "as a second Emancipation." The court's opinion received wide publicity in the press because of the drama of its being handed down on Lincoln's birthday and being read by Mr. Justice Black, an Alabamian, around whose appointment to the supreme court raged such a controversy because of his admitted membership in the Klu Klux Klan in bygone days.

Judge Clears Courtroom of White Girl Students in U. of Missouri Case

More than 100 white girl students at the exclusive Stephens college in Columbia, Mo., were ordered from the Boone county circuit courtroom by Judge W. M. Dinwiddie, February 10, after they had openly expressed their sentiments in favor of Negro citizens attending the University of Missouri with loud cheers.

The youthful students gave the demonstration when Miss Lucille Bluford, 28-year-old managing editor of the Kansas City *Call*, refused to reveal contents of several letters between herself and her counsel, Charles H. Houston, in connection with her filing for entrance to the University of Missouri school of journalism. William S. Hogsett, attorney for S. W. Canada, registrar of the University of Missouri, who barred Miss Bluford from the school of journalism because of her color, had sought to make the newspaper editor tell the contents of the letters. Miss Bluford said the letters were personal.

The young college girls, who crowded the courtroom during the two-day trial, occupying every available inch of floor space in the front and back of the courtroom, followed the testimony carefully. They were attending the hearing as a class project in their course in social problems.

At the end of the trial Judge Dinwiddie reserved decision. Miss Bluford, represented by N.A.A.C.P. attorneys, Charles H. Houston and Sidney Redmond, the latter of St. Louis, Mo., is suing for a writ of mandamus to compel the University of Missouri to admit her for graduate work in its school of journalism. She contends that twice, once when she appeared on the campus of the school January 30, 1939, and again on September 14, 1939, she has been denied admission to the school solely on the ground that she is a Negro. Miss Bluford is a graduate in journalism from the University of Kansas and wishes to pursue graduate study in her chosen field.

Mrs. F. D. R. on List to Sponsor Johnson Memorial

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt heads the list of prominent persons included in a nationwide sponsoring committee of persons in all walks of life who will raise $20,000 to erect a memorial to James Weldon Johnson in New York City.

The memorial to the famous poet, novelist, statesman and former secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. will be erected on a plot of ground at 110th street and Seventh avenue, facing Central park. The ground will be donated by the City of New York, where Mr. Johnson wrote his poem "My City," and where he spent most of his life.

The statue will be executed by Richmond Barthé, the internationally famous sculptor. It will comprise a symbolic bronze group based on Mr. Johnson's famous poem "O Black and Unknown Bards." On one side of the high marble base will appear the head of the poet in bas relief; and on the other side a stanza from the poem.

A steady stream of contributions from persons in all walks of life, has already started coming into the office of the memorial committee in charge of raising funds. The office of the committee, whose honorary chairman is Mayor F.

Morgan Smith

Front row, left to right: Dr. Alma Haskins, Misses Gloria Johnson, Lois Ridley, Jewel Smothers, Dorothelo Cottman, Mrs. Lucille Randolph and Mrs. Georgianna Cottman. Back row, left to right: Mesdames Eva Parks, Sadye J. Williams, Margaret McLaurin, Rose Oxhandler, Carolyn Traynham, Bessie Embry, Nettie Williams, Agatha Ingram, Elsie E. Dorsey, Mabel Dempsey, Juanita McKnight and Kathryn Stephens

H. LaGuardia, and whose chairman is Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, is located at 69 Fifth avenue, New York City. Gene Buck of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, is treasurer.

Senate Committee Holds Anti-Lynching Hearing

Eight witnesses testified before the sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee February 6 and 7 on the need for a federal anti-lynching bill.

With Senator Tom Connally of Texas as a member of the sub-committee, the hearings developed many sharp exchanges between the witnesses and the Texas senator who is a violent opponent of the legislation. Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in Atlanta; the Reverend Gresham Marmion, rector of St. Albans P. E. church in Washington, formerly located in Texas; Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the N.A.A.C.P.; Dr. George F. Porter, president of Wiley Junior college, Dallas, Tex.; and Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, underwent sharp questioning and suffered browbeating and intimidation at Connally's hands. The Texan, however, said not a word as Dean William H. Hastie outlined the constitutional basis for the anti-lynching bill. R. B. Grovey of Houston, Tex., also testified.

Mr. Spingarn's testimony contained quotations from newspapers, especially those in Nazi Germany, about lynchings in the United States.

Mr. White dealt in detail with the arguments against the bill and contended that lynchings were proceeding but were not being publicized. He read into the record a letter from Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Louisville, Ky., *Courier-Journal;* and a letter from Dr. Douglas Freeman, editor of the Richmond, Va., *News-Leader,* both favoring the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill.

Senator Frederick VanNuys, chairman of the Senate sub-committee, announced that a report will be made soon.

Will Appeal Dismissal in Virginia Salary Case

An appeal from United States District Judge Luther B. Way's decision handed down Monday, February 12, in Norfolk, Va., dismissing a suit to restrain the local school board from paying qualified Negro teachers less salary than white teachers doing the same work, will be filed as soon as Judge Way signs the final order, according to Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Marshall heads the group of N.A.A.C.P. attorneys who brought the suit against the local school board in behalf of Melvin O. Alston, high school teacher, and the Norfolk Teachers' Association. Other attorneys in the case are: Dean William H. Hastie, of the Howard university law school, chairman of the association's national legal committee; Leon A. Ransom, a professor at the Howard law school and a member of the N.A.A.C.P.'s national legal staff; and Oliver W. Hill, of the association's Virginia State Conference of Branches.

Maryland County Will Equalize Teachers' Salaries

The Board of Education of Prince George's county, Maryland, through its attorney, Adrian Fisher, has announced that it will equalize the salaries of colored and white teachers beginning September 1, 1940. Notice of the decision was sent to the N.A.A.C.P. with the request that pending mandamus suits against the board be dropped. The action of this county means that since 1936, when the N.A.A.C.P. first began action in teachers' salary cases, more

than $150,000 in increased salaries has been granted Negro teachers by several counties in Maryland.

2,500 at Dance

A crowd of 2,500 was in attendance at the 31st Birthday dance of the N.A.A.C.P. in Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem, February 9. Count Basie and his band furnished the music. Officers and members of N.A.A.C.P. branches were in attendance from points in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York state.

Dr. Louis T. Wright Awarded Spingarn Medal

Dr. Louis T. Wright, nationally known surgeon and chairman of the board of the N.A.A.C.P., was awarded the twenty-fifth Spingarn gold medal for 1939 by the award committee at its meeting January 13.

The Spingarn medal was instituted in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn, for many years president of the N.A.A.C.P. Mr. Spingarn's will, following his death July 26, 1939, provided for the continuation of the award. The medal is given annually to the American Negro who has made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor.

The medal will be presented to Dr. Wright at the thirty-first annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. which will be held in Philadelphia, Pa. next June.

Branch News

CALIFORNIA: J. A. Gregory and Duke Watkins debated the subject of what political party had done the most for the advancement of colored people at the February meeting of the Needles branch in St. James Baptist church.

Rev. L. S. McNeil presided at the February meeting of the Fresno branch, in the Second Baptist church.

CONNECTICUT: The Hartford branch, in cooperation with the North End Conference on Negro problems, launched a city wide campaign to support the anti-lynching bill in Congress. On February 25, Rev. James Robinson, acting national youth chairman, spoke relative to problems affecting the Negro on a national scale.

DELAWARE: "Youth in an Age of Convulsion" was the subject of Herbert T. Miller, secretary of the Southwest Branch Y.M.C.A., Pa., at a recent meeting of the Wilmington branch. Mr. Miller was introduced by Boyd W. Overton, secretary of the Walnut Street Christian Association, and the Rev. Arthur R. James presided.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The District branch reports a conference with Inspector Lamb of the Police Department who has stated that all complaints of police brutality will be carefully investigated. Criticism by colored blind persons of the Vocational Rehabilitation Service in regard to applications for vendors' stands in government buildings resulted in interviews with representatives of the Bureau. It appears that the agencies do not discriminate directly against Negro applicants, but present methods of operation do not guarantee equal opportunities for Negroes. The branch has also had under investigation the claims of a Washington resident who stated that his sons were lynched in Florida and that congressional action compensating him for the loss is pending. The branch also took an active part in securing the return to the District of a colored truck driver who was beaten and jailed in North Carolina while carrying a cargo to a client in S. Carolina. It was able to secure help for the family which was in need. It is also reported that the branch is cooperating with the Local of the United Federal Workers of America on cases which are the best authenticated instances of race discrimination which have been brought to the attention of the office. Members of the branch recently took part in the picket line demonstration at the premier of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" protesting the failure to admit Negroes.

IOWA: The Mason City branch held its February meeting at St. John's Baptist church with D. W. Fitzpatrick, assistant county attorney, as principal speaker. Fred Garwood and others contributed to the program.

The Ottumwa branch, of which R. C. Winston is president, recently indorsed the proposal for a $325,000 grade school building program.

MICHIGAN: Dr. J. J. McClendon has been re-elected president of the Detroit branch. In his inaugural address he pointed out eight major points including increased voting among Negroes, civil rights, increased effort of the legal redress committee, and a larger membership. Mrs. Ada Summers, Christmas Seal chairman, reported $169.03 from the sale; she was reappointed for 1940. In cooperation with other groups, the branch participated in a mass meeting to spur interest in the anti-lynching bill and to send letters, etc., to congressmen. Attorney Charles White was principal speaker, and Dr. McClendon and Jeanetta Welch, regional director of the Non-Partisan Council of A. K. A. also participated. LeBroun Simmons presided.

A Saginaw delegation which attended the state convention of the association in Detroit in February, included Dr. U. S. Bagley, state president; Benjamin Falls, local branch president; Mrs. Blanche Gibbons, secretary; Samuel Hall, membership chairman; Mrs. Daisy Farmer; M. L. Dukes; Peter Hawkins, T. H. Westbrook, William Powell and Elsie and Bernetta Westbrook.

MINNESOTA: The Duluth branch held its annual Lincoln birthday program at the St. Mark's A. M. E. church. Mayor C. R. Berghult was principal speaker, and music was furnished by the young people's orchestra.

NEW YORK: Dr. John A. Singleton has been re-elected for his fourth consecutive term as president of the Jamaica branch. Other officers are Mrs. Frances M. Dougherty, vice-president; Dr. Charles Reid, secretary; and Frank Turner, treasurer. Executive committee members named were: S. A. Allen, Mrs. Enid Lankford, Dr. Judge A. Thompson, Mrs. H. T. Ellis, Selena Girardeau, Mrs. Sybil Powers, Mrs. Frosty D. Turner, Mrs. Laura Lewis, the Rev. Richard Waters and the Rev. E. E. Tyler. The Jamaica branch observed Negro History week with nightly programs, concluding with a Lincoln-Douglass celebration. Principal speaker was Justice Myles Paige. Events of the

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK COMMITTEE, JAMAICA, N. Y., BRANCH

Sitting left to right: Mrs. Sybil O. Powers, Mrs. Frances Dougherty, Miss Selena Girardeau, Mrs. Harriet Tanner Ellis, Dr. John A. Singleton, Mrs. Lora Lewis, Miss Florence Lucas
Standing, left to right: Frank M. Turner, Mrs. Lavinia Pinckney, Mrs. Alice Vaughn, Mrs. Estelle Forbes, Mrs. Mamie Eaddy, Mrs. Lillian Crowder Smith, Miss Phoebian McCarthy. Benjamin Vaughn

week included an art exhibit, literary and musical programs, and Youth night, with Rev. James H. Robinson as speaker. Mrs. Harriet Tanner Ellis was general chairman for history week.

The Ossining branch was an active participant in the sale of anti-lynching buttons.

According to Joseph I. Barnes, president of the Peekskill branch, there was a great deal of cooperation in that city in the distribution of anti-lynching buttons, sales going over the 400 mark.

NEW JERSEY: At a recent meeting of the Rahway branch, presided over by John Madden, the Rev. John Tate of Plainfield was guest speaker, and other speakers were Rev. L. C. Hurdle and Rev. J. B. Mackie. Entertainment included vocal solos by Mrs. Louise Pippinger and Mrs. John Madden and a dramatic reading by Mrs. Geneva Moore.

On February 11 the St. John's Baptist church of Park place, Scotch Plains, presented a service by the Westfield branch under Dr. H. F. Brock, president, and selections by the Joy Harmonizers of Scotch Plains.

At the February meeting of the Newark branch, president Dr. J. Leroy Baxter urged members to write senators to support and vote for the anti-lynching bill.

Welcomed to the city by Mayor Bertram R. B. Aitkens, Dean William Pickens spoke at the January meeting of the Bridgeton branch at Mt. Zion A. M. E. church. Rev D. L. Rideout, president, presented Dean Pickens to the large crowd that had gathered for the occasion. Many new memberships were taken in while others were renewed. Bertram Bland, Harvard graduate, was introduced to speak in the interest of the New Jersey Temporary Commission for the Investigation of Conditions among colored people. Music was furnished by the junior choir of the church, the choir of the Union Baptist Temple, and the sextet of John Wesley church. Preceding the evening program, Dean Pickens was feted at a dinner prepared by the executive board, at the home of Mrs. Alice Tudos.

In summing up the activities of 1939, the Bayonne branch found that the Ladies Auxiliary contributed a great deal toward the success of the branch, by participating in a mass meeting, a musical tea, a bingo party, Oratorical contest, membership drive, baby contest and Christmas seal drive. The Auxiliary was also instrumental in organizing a youth council.

The Long Branch branch, of which Dr. J. C. McKelvie is president, has taken up the fight in behalf of Clara Griffin, convicted of assault on a relief director in Neptune township. It was felt that Miss Griffin was a victim of the plan to terrorize Negroes on relief rolls in the vicinity. Efforts are being made to gain release and vindication, while a thorough investigation of the whole relief situation in Neptune is being urged.

OHIO: Dean Pickens addressed members at Youngstown in January on "What the NAACP Faces Today."

The Columbus branch presented Dean Pickens on February 1.

PENNSYLVANIA: At the regular monthly Media branch meeting, after an interesting business session, a program was rendered featuring the lives of Lincoln and Douglass, William Jacobs and Mrs. Margaret N. Williams speaking. Others participating in the program were Emily Ferguson, Nellie Gibbs, Celia Johnson, Roy Tuddle and Louise Ryder. Miss Quinlan reported a large sale of anti-lynching buttons. At last report the Media branch was planning a mass meeting with the "Cooperative Committee Against Lynching" on February 22, with Walter White and Joseph Gavagan as principal speakers.

Dr. Charles H. Crampton, of Harrisburg, who is a specialist on social diseases, was the principal speaker at a recent public Forum sponsored by the Williamsport branch.

RHODE ISLAND: The Newport branch held its Lincoln-Douglass celebration on February 11 in Canonchet Hall on Caleb Earl Street; Negro History Week was also observed.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The Charleston branch has protested to the Pastime Amusement Co. against its policy of showing the film "Gone With the Wind" for white persons only. William H. Miller, the branch president, said the boycott would be extended to three other theaters owned by the company. It was announced that the picture would be shown later for colored people at a lower price.

TENNESSEE: An intensive membership drive has been conducted by the newly-organized Chattanooga branch. Dr. P. A. Stephens is president, Mrs. Stephens, secretary, and Dr. Napoleon B. Callier is treasurer.

The Nashville branch recently joined with three other organizations in writing a letter to the Nashville press promising their fullest support in developing a constructive program of crime prevention. The letter was signed by the Rev. W. J. Faulkner, president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance; the Rev. S. L. McDowell, of the Nashville branch; M. W. Day, of the Negro Board of Trade, and Dr. George W. Gore, of the Agora Assembly. The four men are members of the co-ordinating committee of the NAACP.

TEXAS: The January forum of the Houston branch was held at the Good Hope Baptist Church. Rev. A. A. Lucas, branch president, outlined objectives of the year, and R. R. Grovey, co-chairman of the legal redress committee, also spoke.

Rev. P. C. Washington, president of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, addressed the Tyler branch, Sunday, January 22, in a public forum at Bethlehem Baptist Church on the subject of "Our Personal Responsibility." Music was furnished by the Texas College chorus, directed by Miss Novel, and accompanied by Mrs. Baker. This was the first forum conducted by the Tyler branch and it was well attended by over one hundred people. E. E. Neal, publicity chairman, reports that the audience entered into a lively twenty minute discussion after the address.

VIRGINIA: The Petersburg branch, of which H. E. Fauntleroy is president, held its January meeting at Davis Hall in Dreamland park.

WEST VIRGINIA: The Rev. Charles E. Boddie, pastor of the First Baptist church, and Dr. Conley H. Dillon, head of the Marshall College political science department led the discussion of "Un-American Activities as They Affect the American Negro," before a meeting of the Huntington branch on February 4.

The Charleston branch presented Leonard Barnett, principal of Washington high school, as guest speaker at the February meeting at First Baptist church. The Girl Scouts also participated in the program.

Youth Council News

First Annual Student Conference

The Call to the First Annual Student Conference, to be held at Virginia Union university, Richmond, Virginia, March 29-31, has been issued to Negro and white colleges throughout the East, South, and Midwest. While the conference will be built around the work of the N.A.A.C.P. it is not limited to members of the Association. Invitations have been extended to representatives of student Christian movements, political science clubs, student government bodies, fraternities, sororities, student Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.'s, and other campus organizations.

The theme of the conference, "Resources for Democracy in Youth" will be borne out in discussion groups on Saturday, March 30 on Democracy in Education, Politics and Government, Security and Opportunity, and Relationship of Minority Struggles. On Sunday morning, March 31, a symposium on "Strategy and Techniques for Minority Groups" will be held prior to the closing session.

Some of the speakers and discussion leaders selected are: Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Rev. Shelby Rooks, Lincoln university, Pennsylvania; Miss Marjorie Penny, Young Peoples Interracial Fellowship, Philadelphia, Pa.; Judge William H. Hastie, Howard university law school, Washington, D. C.; Jack McMichaels, American Youth Congress, New York City; Rev. James H. Robinson, acting youth director, N.A.A.C.P.; Miss Dorothy Height, secretary, Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A., Washington, D. C.; William Richardson, president, Richmond, Va., youth council.

The Virginia Union university college chapter, under the direction of its president, Miss Bathrus Bailey and the Richmond youth council will be joint hosts to the conference, and have planned interesting entertainment for their guests.

Morristown Honors Lincoln and Douglass

The Morristown, N. J., youth council

(*Continued on page* 89)

The Treasurer Says—

I HAVE received an interesting query regarding some figures in the last CRISIS. "In the year 1925," my questioner says, "the receipts were $108,600, while the year before they were $61,300. You account for this increase by the Sweet case. I should like to know whether the case cost this $47,300 difference?"

It would take some time to get the exact figures for that case, but it did not cost $47,300. Clarence Darrow was very generous, charging what for him was almost a nominal fee, and others helped to reduce expenses. When the case was over we had thousands of dollars sent to us for Dr. Sweet's defense unused. We asked these givers whether they would permit us to put their contributions into a Legal Defense Fund. Almost without exception they consented and for years this fund helped to finance cases that we could not otherwise have undertaken. It is now exhausted and legal work has to be paid for out of current moneys.

Our January financial news, and I hope our readers realize that the March CRISIS goes to print the middle of February, concerns two sources of income, the Christmas seals and the "stop lynching" buttons. The total amount received in January from the sale of Christmas seals was $1873. This came from the branches, large and small. I quote one city as a fine example. Detroit sent a check for $524: $169 from the branch and $355 from the youth council. This not only means needed money for the national work, but is another means of showing, by the presence of seals on thousands of letters, that we are still on the job.

The sale of "stop lynching" buttons has only begun. Mrs. Lampkin spent January at the national office and directed the distribution of one hundred and twenty-four thousand buttons. It is good when Mrs. Lampkin makes us her yearly visit. We love her energy and enthusiasm and delight to hear her tell about the branches she has visited. (It makes me homesick to be on the road again.) She uses my little office and starts in by selling buttons to the board members as they come into the monthly meeting. Next she distributes buttons to hundreds of New York people who have shown interest in the NAACP work, as a whole or in some special phase. Buttons go through the mail and checks come back in return. One man paid ten dollars for his button, a few paid five, a larger number one and two. Then came a check, through Mr. White's solicitation, for $500, the giver to be anonymous. And while the larger sums came directly to the office, the sale of thousands of buttons at ten cents apiece began. I can answer for the New York Women's Finance Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Alma Haskins, which took hold with a will. Buttons were sold on the streets and girls shook their boxes in the face of passersby who had often had other boxes held out to them many times for white charity. Ministers gave their churches and collected money directly for us. The campaign was well begun.

Another month or two will show the bulk of the anti-lynching money received from all parts of the United States. I feel that this should be our most successful campaign, for the February hearing before the Senate committee must pull the money out of our pockets and pocketbooks.

So Senator Connally was to show us that the Negroes in his state didn't feel the need of protection against mob violence, was he? He was to bring up certain Uncle Toms who showed a proper spirit of contentment? Not one appeared, but instead a group of courageous colored people gave testimony that should be a part of American history.

At the beginning of the year money comes from old-time contributors, people who have been on our books twenty-five, even thirty years. One New Yorker, whom I have known as giving to great causes for over forty years, sent her regular membership from Old Bennington, Vermont — Miss Helen Phelps Stokes.

Our accountant has just handed me the January mail sheet listing the money received day by day. I thought I would make a guess as to how many states were represented on the list. I guessed what I believed was a high number, thirty-six, three-quarters of the possible forty-eight. Then I counted and found *forty-three* states from which we had received some contribution. The only ones omitted were Minnesota, Delaware, Utah, New Hampshire and Wyoming. We have branches in the first three but I will admit that we are short of friends in Wyoming and New Hampshire.

I have made a beginning with the long record of branches and their activities in the year 1939. I am at once impressed with the number of small branches, branches with one or two or three hundred in membership, that give generously of their funds, more generously in proportion to their size than the larger branches. There are many reasons for this but I state the fact. From Bayonne, N. J., to San Diego, Cal., Atlantic to the Pacific (making special mention of Bayonne), needed help has come in.

In this connection I would like to quote from a letter received January 9 from Dr. D. W. Anthony, the president of the Princeton, N. J., branch:

"At the close of each calendar year it is customary for private and public organizations to make inventories. So last month I made an inventory of the Princeton branch of the NAACP and made a most startling discovery; it was this: Although the entire Negro population of Princeton is 1200 the membership of the local NAACP is 270!

"I recall while at the national convention of the NAACP in Richmond last summer that the Detroit branch boasted of a membership of over 6000; now that's really an excellent achievement. But let us focus the 'microscope' on Detroit and see what we really have there. According to the 1935 World Almanac there are more than 120,000 Negroes in that city; in other words the ratio of NAACP members to resident Negroes in Detroit is about 60 to 1200, while in Princeton, N. J., this ratio leaps to 270 per 1200. I will admit the Princeton branch may not forward to the home office as much money as many other branches do, but speaking in a 'membership to population' way I know of no other NAACP branch that can equal this 'ratio record' of the Princeton branch.

"Has the Princeton branch set some kind of record in this respect? If so, please let us know."

Spring membership drives are starting and branches are preparing to bring their quotas to the Philadelphia conference. May I suggest the importance of publicity, publicity not only among the colored but among the whites? Americans have been accustomed to giving to well-publicized charities, the Red Cross, education, the Community Chest; but an appeal against segregation, an appeal for justice, has not been sufficiently dramatized. When a branch rolls up a large membership, a membership proportionate to its population, it can begin on home issues.

Can you still find the Negro quarter, as I could when I toured the country ten, fifteen years ago, by the change of pavement? Ill-paved streets, poor lighting, neglect in the removal of garbage, these were the signs of approach to a disfranchised, segregated community. Such things can be dramatized.

The national office has been doing this with lynching for twenty-five years. Some of you may have seen this story in the press but it is worth repeating. An NAACP member was wearing a "stop lynching" button in the lapel of his overcoat as he hung to a strap on the New York subway. A white man, standing by him, stared at the button and then said above the roar of the train: "Where can I buy a button like that? I'd like to wear it myself." Taking it off his coat our member put the pin in the lapel of the white man. Here were two Americans, surrounded by their fellows, testifying to their hatred of brutality and their desire for a true democracy.

Youth Council

(*Continued from page 87*)

presented an interesting program at Union Baptist Church recently. Rev. Roosevelt Crockett of Drew university spoke on Lincoln, while Dr. Lester W. Graddick spoke on Douglass. Miss Julia Baxter read, "The Man Who Knew Lincoln," and William Clemons, Jr. delivered Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Music was furnished by the junior choir of the church. The program was followed by a social hour at which tea was served. The committee on arrangements included Weldon N. Lewis, Kate Martin, Lois Alexander, Mildred Jenkins, Samuel J. Hughey, president of the council, and Mrs. Ernest B. Wetmore, adviser.

Virginia State Holds Exhibit

In conjunction with Negro History Week, the college chapter organization committee at Virginia State college held an interesting exhibit. The theme, "Our Fight for Freedom" was carried out in pictures and posters on Music and Composers, Educators—Past and Present, Authors and Works, and Political Achievements. Edward Robinson was chairman of the exhibit committee.

Montclair Presents Dr. Imes

The Montclair, N. J., youth council opened its "Stop Lynching Button" campaign with a mass meeting at which Dr. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian church, New York City, and national board member, was guest speaker. Music was furnished by the Roland Hayes Quartette of Newark, composed of William Porter, Noble Adams, John Cavness and Madison Flanagan, Jr. The meeting was under the direction of Miss Eva Lawrence, chairman of the education committee. Proceeds of $5.00 were sent to the national office for the education fund.

Rev. Robinson at Bethel College

Interesting and varied were the reactions to Rev. James H. Robinson's talk to members of the Student Christian Association on "Racial Problems" at Bethel College (white) McKenzie, Tennessee, recently. The following excerpts are from an article in The Beacon, official school organ: "Various comments were made on the talk concerning "Racial Problems." Some even agreed wholeheartedly with Mr. Robinson in his fight for the Negro race. Others felt that he was absolutely wrong and resented every word he said. . . .

"The favorite expression 'I think he's got something there' was made, but what are we going to do about it. The general attitude toward the speaker was that he was right to a certain extent and that we should give the Negro his rights but to keep him in his place. If—and I think we do believe—that a Negro has a soul, then why not accept him as we do the natives of other foreign lands such as South America, China, and other countries of the world. We believe it our Christian duty to save a man's soul no matter what color he may be, but how can we save his soul for God if we feel ourselves too good to try, to educate and christianize our brother of another race. . . . Even as the saying 'I can forgive but I can't forget' is meaningless, so is the attitude that I can understand a fellowship among various races, but I cannot accept it.

"Let us think seriously about the problem raised and be unprejudiced in our opinion, and if ever the Golden Rule entered into our hearts and minds, let it hold sway there."

Rahway Seeks Center Restoration

Petitions, addressed to the Mayor and the City Council, have been circulated by the Rahway, N. J. youth council, asking that immediate steps be taken to renovate Dunbar Community Center which was partially destroyed by fire in December, 1938. The petition points out that the closing of the center has been a great loss to the Negro community as it was the meeting place for the Boy Scouts, two troops of Girl Scouts, a weekday Bible School, an adult education class, the summer daily vacation Bible School, the Dunbar Choral Club, and recreation groups.

Vocational Opportunity Campaign

Word has been received from the National Urban League of the change of dates of the Eighth Vocational Opportunity Campaign. The original dates of March 17-24, (as announced in the N.A.A.C.P. Youth Program Book) have been moved forward to March 10-17. The theme is, "Train Today for Tomorrow's Job." Full particulars may be secured from National Urban League, 1133 Broadway, New York.

Syracuse Observes History Week

The college chapter organization committee at Syracuse university, New York, under the direction of Jesse Cavileer, observed Negro History and Race Relations Weeks jointly with a series of programs. Student speakers appearing before various campus organizations included Jesse Cavileer (white) and George Haley and Ben Martin, both Negro students.

The highlight of the week was the formal organization supper meeting at which Howard Thurman, of Howard university, Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker.

WHY DETROIT LEADS

As a result of the splendid work done by the Detroit youth councils, the Detroit senior branch, under its president, Dr. J. J. McClendon, made a grant of $1,300 to further the work of the council. Recent cases won by the various councils were: breakdown of segregated seating at the Granada Theatre by the West Side council; picketing of Dr. Toole, dentist, who enjoyed 95% Negro patronage and hired no colored help. A Negro girl was placed by the Brewster council; placing of a colored cashier at the Echo Theatre by the North End council; protest of shooting of innocent bystander outside Ike Levin Tavern by the owner. Protests were carried to the State Capitol at Lansing and the police, with the result that owner can receive no license to reopen.

A semi-formal dance was given by the Detroit councils to celebrate the success of the Christmas Seal sale which netted $335. The Brewster Center council won the gold cup for turning in $100 of this amount, and individual prizes were won by Misses Katherine Tinsley and Thelma Martin.

Book Reviews

A PROMISING VOICE SILENCED

BLACK LABOR CHANT and Other Poems, by David Wadsworth Cannon, Jr., (Association Press, New York. $1.00.) Illustrations by John Borican.

It is with a sense of deep deep loss that one learns that this New Jersey poet, born in 1910 and taken to his reward in 1938, is no longer with us to sing wittily, sadly and bitterly of America and the cosmic scene. These poems collected by his mother, Mrs. Gertrude Cannon, reveal a rare and promising talent, far superior to many of our practicing poets more widely acclaimed.

This modest collection of his verse shows a marked gift of imagery, a sound knowledge of technique and a biting bitterness sugared with wit. In his "Black Labor Chant" we get the full sense of the Negro's enslavement

Cry pine!
I pierce you through for turpentine,
To heal the white man's wounds.

In "Freedom in Mah Soul" there is the dream of the ambitious black farmer

Fo'ty acres jes' fo' me!
And freedom in mah soul!
Great pines lickin up de sky,
Hickories too and oaks so high,
And freedom in mah soul.

These lines in "Cheyenne Fiddler" are arresting

A battered hat crouched on his head,
Wild strands of hair stood out, and led
The way to eyes which burned like stars
On fire beneath a brow of scars—

In a number of brief verses he points mordant wit at the American scene, as in "Tree Surgery"

This was no sudden silence of the heart!
Three generations' eyes again gleamed red.
"Dis rope might bruise de bark, and scar de tree."
"We'll cut it, soon as he 'drops dead' ".

and in "Native Intelligence"

The blind man entered from the darkened rear.
A Negro offered him a seat. He stood,—
Until the driver led him to a place
In front, to sit where white men should!

One is tempted to quote more extensively but the limitations of space prevent, and yet one more quotation will perhaps suffice to round out the picture of this young genius: this from "World Weariness"

I have grown weary of this carnal bark,
Of red tufted heart that drums a hollow bough.
The Lonely One was nailed upon a tree.
In every vein, I am as bruised now.
And yet, no storm can wash me out to sea.
My dying roots eke deeper than the earth.
Like Nicodemus, old and facing death,
They seek again the source of second birth.

The eighteen illustrations done by John Borican, the famed middle distance runner and friend of the author, are more than adequate.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

PATRIARCHS OF THE RACE

THREE GENERATIONS: The Story of a Colored Family of Eastern Tennessee. By Charles W. Cansler. Privately Printed, August, 1939. VIII+173pp.

Mr. Cansler has had a rich and varied career as lawyer, railway mail clerk, bookkeeper, teacher, and principal. He is a churchworker and honored citizen of Knoxville, Tennessee, and an intimate friend of many of the famous Negroes of his day. Only the last third of the book is autobiographical: the other two-thirds narrate the history of the first two generations of his family, and extends therefore back into the slave period in North Carolina. Though interesting in spots much of this early family history, because it is interlarded with already well-known historical facts, is boring. Often the author's comments on the interracial friendships of his ancestors are sacchrine and uncritical. But the story begins to pick up interest with the second generation. The name Cansler, for instance, is the Anglicized form of the German Kantzler. Conrad Kantzler was a German immigrant who later moved with his six daughters into Monroe County, Tennessee. He was very indulgent with his slaves and gave them much more liberty than was usually granted slaves at that period. "Perhaps it was this freedom from any restraint placed upon one of these slaves, perhaps it was his intelligence or his comeliness—or all of these things combined that caused young Katherine Kantzler to become infatuated with one particular young Negro male slave. It soon became known in the neighborhood that Katherine Kantzler was the mother of a colored baby boy." "Hugh Lawson Kantzler changed his name to Cansler when he became old enough to understand the relationship he bore to the family of Conrad Kantzler."

It was this same Hugh Lawson Cansler who later safely conducted the cavalry advance of Sherman's army into Knoxville. Lawson Cansler died at the age of eighty-four, leaving eight children. One of these boys, William J. Cansler, became a teacher in a school at a site within one block of the school where his mother had first taught. The second son, our author Charles W. Cansler, and his sister Nannie became teachers in the Knoxville system five years later. After following various odd jobs, Mr. Cansler decided to be a lawyer; but he soon felt that law was not his calling and that he would be of more service to his people if he became a teacher. Most of his story is concerned with his experiences as teacher and community leader. Probably the most interesting chapters of his book are those in which he contrasts and comments upon the schools of

(*Continued on page* 91)

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The Rock of Gibraltar is named after a Negro.
41 Negroes have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.
Beethoven and Haydn were both Negroes.

The white population of New York City is a third more illiterate than the Negro one

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LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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506-9 Bay City Bank Building, Bay City, Mich.
Telephones: Office: 286; Res. 3404

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4256 Russell St., Detroit, Mich.
Telephone: Terrace 2-9134

James D. Lee
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Telephone: Clifford 0093

Judson B. Powell
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Telephone: Clifford 0274

Floyd H. Skinner
Michigan at Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
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MISSISSIPPI

James A. Burns
2513 5th St., Meridian, Miss.
Telephone: 9388

MISSOURI

Ellis S. Outlaw
3140 Pine Street, St. Louis, Mo.
Telephones: JE 8257; JE 8381

R. Edwin Parker
3970½ Finney Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

NEW JERSEY

Robert Queen
70 Spring Street, Trenton, N. J.
Telephone: 2-3034

OHIO

Chester K. Gillespie
241 Euclid Avenue—Cleveland, Ohio
Telephone—Cherry 1835

Howard and Dickerson
312 Federal Building, Youngstown, Ohio
Telephone: 3-5695

PENNSYLVANIA

Raymond Pace Alexander
1900 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rittenhouse 9960, 9961, 9962, 9963

Thomas E. Barton
806 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Telephone: Grant 3137

Theron B. Hamilton
806 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Telephone: Grant 3137; Residence: Schenly 3298

TENNESSEE

R. Bartley J. Campbelle
419 Fourth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn.
Telephone: 6-5780

TEXAS

H. W. Hatten
1812 Granbury Avenue, Fort Worth, Tex.
Telephone: 2-3701

VIRGINIA

W. W. Forman
932 Church St., Norfolk, Va.
Telephone: Dial 2-7237

WEST VIRGINIA

Harry J. Capehart & Leon P. Miller
18 Virginia Avenue, Welch, W. Va.
Telephone: 289

Book Reviews

(*Continued from page* 90)

yesteryear and those of today. His friendships with leading whites of his community and state are mentioned for the services which they performed for Negro education and uplift.

Perhaps the chief fault of Mr. Cansler's book is that he overstuffs it with those trivialities of living which can be of significance only to the author and his intimate friends. Many of the happenings about which the reader would like to know more are surrounded by a strange reticence. His writing is too ornate and frequently descends to a mawkish sentimentality which obscures what the writer is trying to say.

JAMES W. IVY

NEGRO WORKERS IN FREE AMERICA, by Rev. Francis J. Gilligan, S.T.D. (The Paulist Press, 401 West 59th St., New York. 5 cents)

Most gratifying is the increasing interest of the Catholic Church in the economic and social problems of colored folk in America. After a long and inexcusable delay, the Church has gone about the business of trying to eradicate race prejudice through education with commendable zeal and thoroughness, and bids fair at the present rate to far outstrip many of the Protestant denominations. Of course that day is still some distance in the future.

The average white person in America periodically excited by the plight of the Chinese, the Spaniards, the Austrians, the Czechs, the Poles, the Finns or other persecuted folk far distant from these shores, is abysmally ignorant about or indifferent to the diabolical and studied submergence and persecution of the Negro in the U. S. A. He is uninformed or misinformed about the pariahs in his midst and the first job is to inform him. This is the purpose of Father Gilligan's excellent 32-page pamphlet.

To his credit let it be said that his indictment of the traditional American Terror is as strong as anything any Negro writer has penned. Here in brief space but eloquently written and bristling with incontrovertible facts is the capsule chronicle of the dastardly industrial discrimination to which the Negro is subjected: his vanishing jobs, the prejudice of white employers and employees against Negro labor, the connivance of the federal government in this "cold pogrom," especially in the administration of unemployment relief.

Following this summary of genteel frightfulness with its dreadful toll of malnutrition, disease, poverty, broken homes and crime, the author states the enlightened Catholic position. He tells what the Church, the white employer and employee, and the federal government must do to cope effectively with this problem they have created and are perpetuating.

This pamphlet will help a whole lot in moving America a little further toward that social justice which is the avowed Catholic aim.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

Checks for National Sharecroppers' Week should be made payable to Howard Kester, Treasurer, and sent to 112 East 19th street, New York, N. Y.

Sharecroppers' Week

One of the features of National Sharecroppers' Week will be a dinner March 5 at the Hotel Commodore in New York at which Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will speak and present awards to the winners of the high school essay contest on "The Sharecropper Problem." Other speakers will be J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma; Norman Thomas of the League for Industrial Democracy; and Roy Wilkins of the N.A.A.C.P. The honorable Newbold Morris, president of the New York City Council, will preside.

178 in Census Bureau

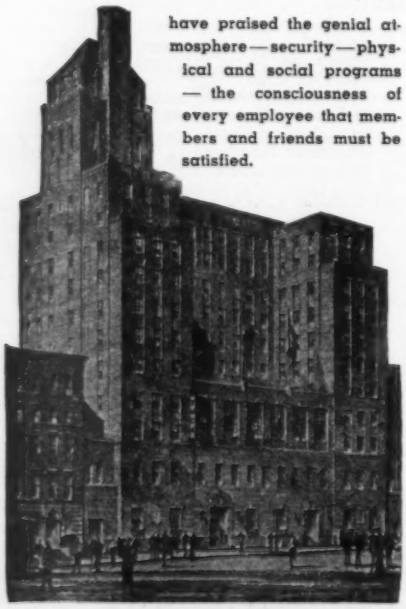
A total of 178 colored workers are employed in the Census Bureau in Washington at the present time, according to the Chief of the Bureau's Division of Appointments. These persons are engaged in work preparatory to the taking of the gigantic 1940 Census which will begin April 1.

SUBSCRIBE TO *THE CRISIS*
$1.50 A YEAR

MANY FINE MEN

the country over who lived at the

Harlem Branch Y. M. C. A.



have praised the genial atmosphere—security—physical and social programs—the consciousness of every employee that members and friends must be satisfied.

Two buildings in the heart of Harlem:
180 West 135th St. 181 West 135th St.

Patch Quilt

(*Continued from page 72*)

—"And when he did go fishin', that gal was right along with him. He used to come home with scarcely no fish!"

—Like patches in a quilt, Sara could piece the whole story clearly now.

The neighbors had known that day when she went shopping for chicken and cysters, lemonade and a new ice pick. They had known all this.

That is why they had looked at her so. And she thought it was envy.

And from those fishing trips Jim used to come back absent minded, suddenly irritable, with little red patches—that were made by the imprint of a mouth coated with lip stick.—Sara knew now—on his shirt . . . "Berries done that!" he had lied.

"You ought to get right smart insurance from Uncle Sam if that pick fell on him!" the neighborhood declared to Sara.

Sara did not answer. She had to work harder to make ends meet.

Only she and Jim and Marie knew about the ice pick.

And shame, humiliation, and despair froze them to silence.

Uncle Eph knew, of course, but he never told.

Sometimes he felt sorry because he had been the one who had sent Sara to the tool shed.

But he always comforted himself with the thought that he had fed the chicken to his cat.

He could not eat delicacies that had been meant for a feast of rejoicing—and dropped for a maiming—and a slaughter of hopes.

Douglass Pamphlet Out

A new pamphlet containing the oration of Frederick Douglass delivered at the unveiling of the Freedmen's Monument in memory of Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1876, in Lincoln park, Washington, D. C., has just been published by the Frederick Douglass Historical and Cultural League, 209 West 125th Street, New York City. Price 25 cents; dozen, $2.50; hundred, $19.00.

Benefit Cocktail Party

The New York Crisis Committee, which was organized in 1936 to aid The Crisis, will give its annual matinee cocktail party and dance Sunday, March 10, from five to ten p.m. at the Witoka Club, 222 West 145 street. Tickets are 50c. Miss Lucile Armistead is chairman of the committee, and Mrs. Rae Ollie Mills is in charge of the benefit.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be among those attending the showing of new portraits of Negroes by Robert M. Jackson at the Charles Morgan gallery, 37 West 57th street, New York, March 18–30. Above is "Woman in Red Hat."

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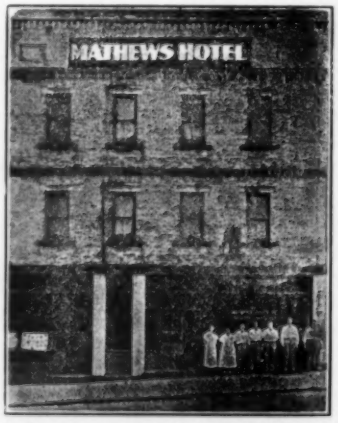

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Sharecroppers

(*Continued from page* 80)

system which smells of feudalism and slavery, man-made diseases such as pellagra, poor educational opportunities, a disregard for elementary human rights and dignities on the part of powerful economic interests, has produced a condition so ghastly as to be hardly comprehensible to most Americans, but which is due to be aggravated by the shift from tenancy and sharecropping to day labor and the replacement of the man with the hoe and his mule by power driven machines, tractors, cotton pickers, and the like.

Wandering Farmers

Thousands of families can be seen following the crops across the South, uprooted from the soil yet determined to somehow cling to it. Other thousands are yet to go. But here they are, earnest, hard working farmers whose only crime is that of being caught in the jaws of a crumbling economic order which threatens to overwhelm us all. These farmers without land, without farms, tools, or animals, without homes, without any moorings whatever except a broken-down jalopy, have already spilled over California and the West. What section of the nation will they next move upon? Are they to be condemned because they want jobs, homes, health, human happiness? Are they to be persecuted because they are eternally on the move seeking to earn an honest living? They are not to be despised, but honored, for out of such courage and determination can we yet build a nation worthy of our forefathers who, too, were restless wanderers in search of a fuller, richer, nobler life. Neither are they to be pitied: they are our brothers and sisters, blood of our blood, bone and sinew of America. They are to be helped in their struggle for land and home and security in that social and economic wilderness that is rural America.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is the landless farmers' tool with which to help build his part of the foundations of that better America of tomorrow. He has done wonders considering the multiple handicaps of race hatred, poverty, ignorance, disfranchisement, human indifference, and utter callousness toward him as a citizen, a working farmer, a human being.

Record of the S. T. F. U.

After six years the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has proven itself fully capable of organizing the disinherited men of the cotton country, as no other organization has. It is wholly indigenous, and its leadership to a man is southern. The people have demonstrated their capacities for restrained and intelligent thought and action. The movement arises out of the soil which has nurtured the people's gravest problems and their brightest hopes.

The record speaks for itself. If for no other reason these men and women would deserve the gratitude and support of every loyal American for uniting black and white sharecroppers and day laborers on the plantations of the South in a bona fide union and doing it without violence or hatred. They have been instrumental in bringing the plight of the agricultural South to southerners and to the nation at large and the recommendations they have made with respect to housing, health, education, law enforcement, government benefits, reforestation, utilization of the land, a balanced agriculture, and numerous other items have not gone unheeded. They have succeeded in exposing certain brutalizing aspects of the plantation system and have brought to light cases of peonage and forced labor. They have caused governmental investigations, both state and national, to be made into conditions in the cotton country. No lynchings have occurred in the areas where they have organized, and constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and assemblage have been recognized for the first time in many decades. Thousands of children have been benefited by free school books made available through state laws following agitation by the Union and other groups. Wages have been raised and hundreds of thousands of dollars in government benefits secured for the sharecroppers for whom it was originally intended.

This record merits the support of every loyal American. Records of contributions received and funds expended are carefully and faithfully kept and our books regularly audited by a certified accountant. Money given for this work among southern sharecroppers will be spent for this purpose and no other. Do you want to help American men, women, and children to a better, more noble way of life through an organization dedicated to doing the job in a democratic, American manner? If so, help make National Sharecroppers' Week, March 4-10, a living testimony to America's interest in her own refugees and give to a cause which represents from eight to ten million fellow Americans.

Spend Where You Can Work!

INSURE WITH NEGRO COMPANIES

They Provide: SECURITY for Loved Ones, JOBS for Trained Negroes and ECONOMIC POWER for the Group

READ AND ACT

The National Negro Insurance Association reported for 1936:

—Assets of $17,434,075.07
—Income of $15,061,347.72
—Insurance in force: $288,963,070.00
—Policies in force: 1,643,125
—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
—Policies issued and Revived in 1936: $174,112,773.00
—Increased business, 1936: $65,645,466
—Increase in policies, 1936: 251,047

PLAY SAFE—*Insure with* THESE *Companies*

GOLDEN STATE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Los Angeles, California
LIFE, RETIREMENT INCOME and DISABILITY CONTRACTS
Executive Officers:
Wm. Nickerson, Jr. Geo. A. Beavers, Jr. Norman O. Houston

BUILDING FOR YOUTH
An Institution of Life Insurance
Great Lakes Mutual Insurance Co.
Chas. H. Mahoney, President Louis C. Blount, Secretary
Home Office—DETROIT, MICHIGAN

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"Built for Your Protection"
THE DOMESTIC Life & Accident Insurance Company
Louisville, Kentucky
Authorized Capital $150,000.00

Mention THE CRISIS to Our Advertisers

Children

(*Continued from page 75*)

ticular section of the country or to any particular part of the population. Nor does the minority problem spring from the nature or character of people in minority groups, since every racial group has been treated as a minority at one time or another.

It is out of such an interpretation of the problem that the report committee recommends that the standards set for the protection and care of children in America should apply to all children. As elements in a democracy all citizens should work continuously, in home and school, in private and public organizations, and in government for the elimination of racial discrimination and prejudice in every form. One of the most fruitful points of attack is in the schools where respect and understanding of different racial and cultural origins could and should be fostered; greater care should be exerted in the selection of textbooks to attain this end. The preliminary report recommends also that surveys made to discover the social needs of communities should give full consideration to minority groups and their needs should be estimated on the basis of the same standards as those adopted for majority groups. Employers and labor unions are particularly urged to eliminate discrimination on account of race or color; and it is recommended that private and public agencies give minority groups employment opportunities and a chance to participate in administrative and policy making activities. Where social services and related benefits are financed by Federal or State funds the same standards should apply to minority groups as to others and specific legislative requirement should assure such equitable participation. Poll taxes, when used to deprive constitutionally eligible citizens of their rights, should be eliminated. These are the principal proposals in the preliminary statement.

Re-statement Important

While the majority of Negroes will agree with the analysis of the minority problem outlined above and approve of the recommendations, many will be inclined to ask: what good will it do? what problems will the conference solve? As I see it the democratic process consists of action through public opinion and public support. No democracy can live unless its people are educated to know facts and appreciate values. No problem in a democracy is ever solved or met effectively until it is defined and forcefully presented, time and time again to the attention of the people. This is what a conference called by the President and assembled in the White House can assist in doing. It gives ammunition to those who are fighting to preserve children, protect minorities, and strengthen democracy. It is another step towards doing something about these basic problems. But more than this, it affords a statement of facts and recommendations which contribute toward giving to minority groups a better perspective. It should serve to show them and other citizens in the Nation that their problems are a part of national interests and their deficiencies are national weaknesses. This, in turn, shows that many of the efforts of minority groups must be redirected largely into national movements. To serve the best interests of real democracy is to serve most effectively the best interests of the Negro as well as other minority groups and, at the same time, to enlist the support and cooperation of all those elements generally interested in the preservation of the democratic way of life.

Is Your Advertising
LIKE A TAILOR'S DUMMY?

The most expensive suit of clothes will not breathe life into the waxen cheeks of a tailor's dummy. Though the coat fit smoothly and the trousers hang perfectly, it is apparent that beneath the flawless exterior the spiritless framework remains stiff and lifeless.

In advertising, it is necessary to have a flawless exterior—a pleasant visual effect which may be secured through the skillful touches of the artist, engraver, typographer, and pressman. But mechanical perfection alone, though it may inspire admiration, cannot create a desire for your product. Back of it must be a MERCHANDISING APPEAL to co-ordinate beautiful art work, harmonious typography, careful makeready, and correct paper and ink so that it performs a selling job. Advertising material produced by WILL-BRO possesses this vital characteristic because it is planned with the idea that its primary purpose is to sell merchandise. Complete facilities in our varied set-up and men trained in the tradition of quality are your guarantee of mechanical perfection. We shall be glad to demonstrate our ability in the planning of a single folder or a complete campaign . . . without any obligation to you.

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